THE TIMES

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FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE
The Times looks forward to what must change before any referendum page 21

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Sterling could vanish in five years

Blair begins battle for the euro

By Philip Webster
Political Editor



TONY BLAIR yesterday set Britain on a course that could see the end of sterling within five years.

He prepared the stage for one of the biggest political battles of the century by launching a 30-month campaign to persuade the country that it should enter the European single currency.

In a marked shift of gear, the Prime Minister gave business the signal that it has been demanding of the Government's intent to take Britain into the euro if the economic conditions are right.

He announced that legislation is to be rushed through to enable tens of millions of pounds to be spent in each of three departments — Social Security, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise — to make their computer systems compatible for the euro.

He outlined a timetable for British entry to the euro and the abolition of sterling considerably shorter than that being followed by the 11 European Union countries already in euroland.

Although Mr Blair insisted that British membership was not inevitable, the reaction of leading business organisations and senior pro-Europeans across the political divide confirmed that they believe he has taken his biggest step so far towards that goal. Companies had complained that Mr Blair could not expect them to stump up the £3.5 billion needed to convert to the euro if the Government was not itself giving a stronger commitment, including the spending of cash.

> ‘Mr Blair has given lobbyists for monetary union the signal they have long demanded’
> —*Leading article, page 21*

Debate, page 10
Peter Riddell, Page 11
George warning, page 25

As Mr Blair presented a 65-page "national changeover plan" to prepare the country for the option of going into the euro, he made plain that he would put himself at the head of the "Yes" campaign in a referendum. He told a packed and noisy Commons: "We can no longer afford to pretend either that the euro does not exist or that Britain should not actively prepare for it. Such a denial of reality does not promote Britain's interests, it betrays them."

The Prime Minister's statement exposed the continuing divisions in both the main parties over the euro, with leading Tory pro-Europeans such as Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine ostentatiously sitting together as a group and warmly welcoming Mr Blair's words. But the Tory leadership and the large majority of Tory MPs will fight the euro up to and through the next election campaign. William Hague accused the Prime Minister of committing the country to an "unnecessary, expensive and time-consuming" course of action for which the voters had never given their consent.

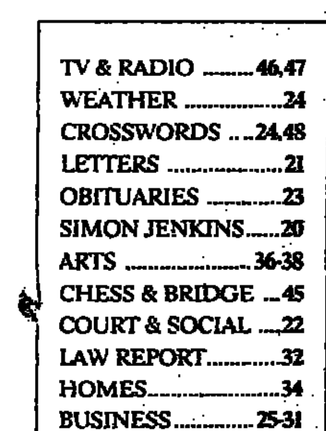
"Hasn't it been a remarkably short journey from this love of the pound to the plan he announced today to adopt the euro and abolish the pound?" he said, referring to a 1997 article Mr Blair wrote in *The Sun* under the headline "My love for the pound".

Mr Blair made plain that, as before, there will be no Government decision on the euro this side of a general election. But the clear expectation is that if Labour wins again, that decision will come soon afterwards, possibly in late 2001 if the general election is called in the early summer of that year.

The timetable envisaged by the plan is for a four-month referendum campaign. If the British people vote for entry there would be between two years and 30 months of intense preparations for automatic cash machines and supermarket tills to be changed, ending with the introduction of euro notes and coins. After a further period of up to six months — but possibly as short as two months — sterling notes and coin would vanish.

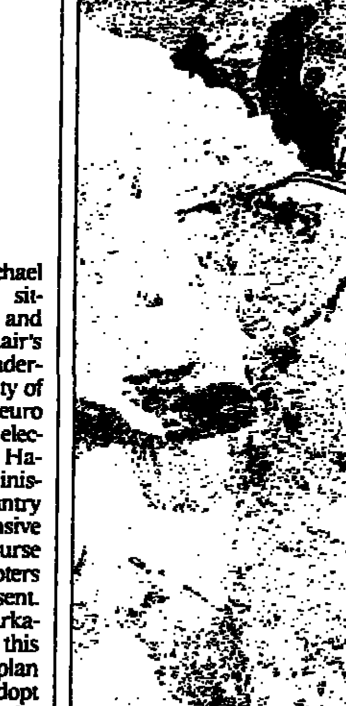
The plan is silent, however, on the key date at which sterling would be locked into the euro — the effective date that Britain joins the single currency. It is likely to be within a year of the referendum decision but a lengthy, unresolved argument is proceeding between the Treasury, which wants a short period to avoid

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The Swiss Army helps rescuers in Evolene yesterday after two avalanches hit the Swiss resort. About 40,000 people have been stranded by avalanches

Rescuers hunt for survivors after avalanche hits Austrian resort

By Nigel Glass, in Vienna
and Elizabeth Judge

A HUGE avalanche swept through an Austrian ski resort yesterday, killing at least seven people and burying up to 40 others beneath thousands of tons of snow.

Rescuers in the Tyrolean community of Galtür were frantically trying to reach the trapped as darkness fell. Several people were pulled out alive, suffering from serious injuries. Soldiers joined the hunt, but their efforts were hampered by poor weather, which prevented help being airlifted to the Paznaun Valley.

Witnesses said several snow falls hit the town, which had been cut off for three days, almost simultaneously. Plumes of snow blocked out the sun and vibrations triggered falls in neighbouring resorts.

As the emergency services struggled to reach the scene, near the Swiss border, radio appeals for tourists with medical experience were broadcast. Soldiers with night-sights, heat-seeking equipment and sniffer dogs were confined to their barracks by the bad weather.

The area is popular with British holidaymakers. The Foreign Office was waiting for information about possible casualties and ski companies were organising head counts of their clients in the resort.

Chris Laming, comunications director of P&O Stena



Line, who has been stranded in Galtür since Friday with his wife Pauline and two children, said: "The sky went black and a huge cloud of powder snow covered the whole village. I saw people running in and out of our hotel. Terrified parents were searching for their children."

Mr Laming, from Dover, said: "The incredible thing was that there was absolutely no sound. All we saw was the light go and this swirling powder snow crash into the hotel windows."

He said the disaster happened as ski- instructors were organising a light-hearted race in a central area called the Dorfplatz. "The slopes are closed, but they were racing inside the village and the Dorfplatz was very crowded. The spot where the avalanche hit is covered with snow many feet deep and that's where they are digging and probing with poles."

Franz Wenko, a hotel operator, said: "We were drinking hot mulled wine, when suddenly it started. The lights went out. It was dark. There was only dust and snow. We got out of there as fast as we could."

Other avalanches have killed at least 11 people throughout Europe and hundreds of Britons are among at least 40,000 people stranded in resorts experiencing their heaviest snowfalls in living memory.

British tour operators made arrangements to transfer clients who had been due to fly to Galtür next weekend to safer resorts. Last weekend, Inghams airlifted 12 holidaymakers away because of the risk of avalanche. Britons with relatives in the area can contact the following telephone number: 0043 512 5900 2500.

Snow chaos, page 4

Visions vie with values

POLITICAL SKETCH
Matthew Parris

THIS will be a battle royal. Few can have watched yesterday's Commons clash over the euro without thrilling to a sense of political history.

And not just between parties. Watching the isolation of one bench of Tory Europeanists — the tension in their faces and voices — it was hard to believe their differences can be contained much longer.

The impromptu illuminated best. Though vastly significant, the Prime Minister's prepared text was dull and overlong. But William Hague's off-the-cuff response showed resoundingly the power with which the anti-euro cause can be projected: while Tony Blair's rejoinder was a withering demonstration of how Tory lip-service to an open mind on the euro will be blown away.

Mr Blair's Statement was peppered with provisos. Details of how, "*should it choose to do so*, Britain could join" popped up in the first paragraph. "*In principle*", and "*if*" soon joined the chorus of conditionality.

But to study body language and intonation — head raised for every "when", voice lowered for each "if" — was to hear more of a precautionary, gabbled "God willing" than the promise of an open mind. They resembled a legalistic "terms & conditions apply". Mr Blair might as well have winked.

Most of his Statement sounded like Whitehall-speak, with blank final page and a civil servant's note: "*[PM to add thoughtful ending]*".

He did. To sound contemplative, Mr Blair reaches for his V-words: "vision" and "values". These are beginning to excite derision. "We have a vision, but it is a vision that is practical. We should have confidence both in our vision and our pragmatism."

This was met with hoots.

I noticed again a keynote in

Continued on page 2

Unilever makes £5bn payout

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods company, is to return a record £5 billion to its shareholders by way of a special dividend. The company said it had no use for the cash which amounts to 10 per cent of its stockmarket value. The payout amounts to 66.13p a share.........Page 25.

Race favourite put down

Bint Allayl, the favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, has been put down after suffering a leg fracture on the gallops at Kingsdown, near Lambourne. She was rated Europe's champion two-year-old filly last season.........Page 43

Lawrence family set to sue police force for damages

By Michael Harvey
and Stewart Tendler

THE family of Stephen Lawrence is expected to launch an unprecedented civil action for damages against the Metropolitan Police.

Doreen and Neville Lawrence and their legal advisers have discussed a claim for negligence after reading a damning report of the police investigation into their son's murder. The judicial inquiry report is to be released today.

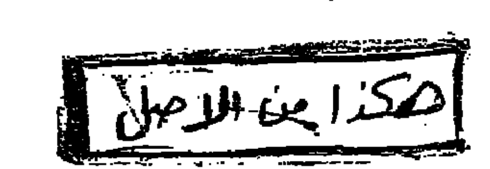
The Lawrences also hope that the Crown Prosecution Service will use evidence gathered at the inquiry, headed by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, to bring charges of perjury against the five young men accused of the killing. Mr Lawrence said yesterday: "I'm still clinging to the hope of justice. When these guys gave evidence, they were lying and I am hoping that they are going to recommend that these guys be tried for perjury. It carries a 15-year sentence. I'll be happy with that."

Last night Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, put the finishing touches to a ten-point plan to restore public confidence in his force. The project, which will combine a hearts and minds campaign, is to be announced later today.

The proposals, described as radical, is expected to include plans for officers to wear name tags on duty so that they can be identified. The Yard is also launching training for all senior officers so that they can evaluate murder cases.

A civil action by the Lawrences could see individual officers, many of whom are criticised heavily in the inquiry report, being sued, or Sir Paul Condon as head of the force or both. A family friend said: "No final decision has been taken."

Lewisham murder, page 5



Scientists develop test to identify meningitis in minutes

Early treatment of killer disease will save lives and prevent epidemics, Ian Murray reports

A SIMPLE test that can diagnose meningitis within 30 minutes at a cost of just £2 has been developed by British scientists.

The discovery represents a breakthrough in tackling the killer disease as early treatment is vital to save lives and prevent epidemics. The test shows not only if a patient is suffering from the disease but also which of the three main strains.

Vaccine is effective against only the C strain, which occurs in 25 per cent of cases. Since it takes several days for a vaccine to be effective, the earlier contacts of the sick person are immunised the better the chance of preventing an epidemic.

In the recent outbreak at Pontypridd in South Wales it took three days to establish that group C was involved before starting the vaccinations programme. With the new test it would be possible to start immunising people almost immediately. Julia Warren, of the Meningitis Research Foundation, said: "This will revolutionise diagnosis worldwide and is tremendously exciting. It has enormous public health consequences." The foundation paid £85,000 to fund the research. "This is wonderful value for money," she said.

The new method, developed by scientists at Cardiff University and the University of Wales College of Medicine, uses equipment that can be bought for only £1,000 and costs £2 per test.

A blood sample is put through an ultrasound scanner enhancer to provide an image that can be easily read. This shows if a meningococcal disease is present and identifies which of the three main strains is involved. Because patients suffering from suspected meningitis are immediately given antibiotics, it is almost impossible to grow a culture that will show what strain of the disease has caused the illness.

Accurate diagnosis has therefore been possible only by sending a lumbar puncture sample to a laboratory in Manchester where the DNA eventually shows what the patient has been suffering. Trials at five hospitals in Britain and Ireland have shown that the new test is superior to traditional culture techniques and as effective as DNA tests even though it takes only a fraction of the time and can be performed by staff after very little training.

Edward Kaczmarski, head of the Public Health Laboratory Service's meningococcal reference unit in Manchester, said: "Knowing what strain of meningitis we are dealing with is important in the management of contacts and the identification of outbreaks."

Details of the way the new test works are shown on *Tomorrow's World* on BBC1 tonight. Philip Monk, a public health consultant, told the programme that the ability to make an early diagnosis would allow an early intervention in an outbreak of the disease and would therefore save lives.

MP quits over leak of report to Cook

By Roland Watson, political correspondent

THE arms-to-Africa affair dealt another blow to Robin Cook yesterday when a Labour MP resigned from the inquiry committee after admitting he had leaked a copy of its findings to the Foreign Secretary.

Ernie Ross, MP for Dundee West, sent a draft copy of the cross-party Foreign Affairs Select Committee findings to Mr Cook four weeks before it was officially published.

Mr Ross admitted his role as Mr Cook was forced to concede in a Commons written reply that he had received a leaked copy of the report, one of the most hard-hitting and critical of a department in recent memory.

Tories on the committee had previously complained that Mr Cook appeared remarkably well briefed on the contents of the report in broadcast interviews before it was published.

Although a severe embarrassment to the Foreign Secretary, the Opposition turned their fire on one of his middle-ranking ministers, Tony Lloyd, whom they accused of misleading the Commons.

When asked last week who was the first person in the Foreign Office to see the report, Mr Lloyd side-stepped the question and answered in a written Commons reply that copies were collected on publication day. Cheryl Gillan, Tory foreign affairs spokeswoman, said that if Mr Lloyd had been aware of the leak, he should resign.

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said the "clear effect" of Mr Lloyd's reply had been "to mislead Parliament". He said Mr Lloyd should come to the Commons to give an immediate explanation.

Mr Ross's admission that he had acted against one of the foundations of the select committee system, that it exists to call the executive to account, failed to surprise some of his own colleagues.

During the protracted committee sessions into the Sierra Leone affair, Mr Ross was often an obstructive force to the questioning of ministers and civil servants, and once even adjourned a hearing because of the line of inquiry taken by one of the committee members.

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, said: "Ernie has at last been exposed as a Government nark. He has abrogated his responsibilities as a parliamentarian."

Mr Canavan said the episode also raised questions for Mr Cook. "Robin should have refused to accept it. He is a parliamentarian as well as a Minister."

In his statement, Mr Ross admitted he had breached the confidence of the committee, but had done so because of his concerns about the way the committee's approach.

He said: "I accept without reservation that I was wrong to do this and consequently it was right for me to resign from the committee.

"I express my sincere apologies to the committee and was very grateful for the understanding shown to me by all of them."

A Foreign Office spokesman said that after receiving the leak, the department had neither tried to interfere with the committee nor done its own leaking to the media.



Ross: sent copy of draft report to Robin Cook



Fiona Jones, MP for Newark, arriving at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday

Candidate and agent 'went on spending spree'

By Adam Fresco

A LABOUR MP failed to declare part of her election expenses to run a campaign that helped her win a seat from the Tories at the general election, a court was told yesterday.

Fiona Jones, 41, the Labour MP for Newark, broke election law by spending double the permitted amount, Nottingham Crown Court was told. Mrs Jones and her agent, Des Whicher, both deny making a false declaration of election expenses in June 1997, contrary to the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Paul Mann, for the prosecution, told the court that after every general election an MP and the agent had to declare what their election expenses amounted to. "There is a legal limit as to how much money a candidate can spend." The limit for Newark was £8,905; Mrs Jones and Mr Whicher declared £8,514.

"They also declared that was the amount of money they had received in donations to fund that campaign. The allegation is the defendants received and spent more than twice that amount and in declaring £8,514 they deliberately lied," Mr Mann said.

He added: "We will suggest it must have been apparent to these defendants from the outset of this campaign it was going to be a costlier one than in the past."

The party opened up a bank account and Mr Whicher became one of the signatories in October 1996. "When Mr Whicher took over the account it had a little under £2,000. That would have been by no means enough to fight a campaign these two people had in mind."

They received a donation of just over £6,000 for the campaign. "Mrs Jones and Mr Whicher were then able to begin spending in earnest."

In January 1997 Mrs Jones hired a Toyota until after the election. "She had a car of her own," said Mr Mann, "as did her husband. We suggest the acquisition of this rather smart red vehicle was all to do with image." The court heard that the expenses for the car were incorrectly entered.

After they had hired an office, equipped it and hired three telephonists, there was less than £2,000 in the account. Mr Mann said: "It was within a matter of a few weeks of polling day. In that month, beautifully timed, a company provided a further £10,000.

"According to one prosecution witness, Mr Whicher confided in her that his policy was to be 'spend, spend, spend'." The trial continues.

Visions and values

continued from page 1

this Prime Minister's approach to persuasion. The word "real" kept cropping up. We must get real. The euro is happening — like it or not. There is no opposing reality, "no going back" (in his words) "from the road to the future." The euro simply is.

This inevitable-ist view of history sounds bold but is secretly timid, sidestepping questions of what is wise or right. "Get into what is the real world today!" Blair snapped at the Tory Eurosceptic, Sir Michael Spicer.

But on the attack Blair was formidable. Answering William Hague, he derided the ten-year limit on the Tory 'no' to the euro. Was the Tory position (asked Blair) to offer a ten-year guarantee on "a thousand years of history"?

Just as Blair's "if" came with a wink, so had Hague's "not for the next ten years". Blair meant "soon" and Hague meant "never". Each was easily mocked for this.

The Tory leader had a fine old time deriding the Prime Minister for his protestations of even-handedness, and warning the House of his real purpose. Hague's jokes were as good as ever, but beneath lay the force of conviction and a lucid argument. Three quarters of the Tory ranks rallied with relief to this performance, and said as much in their interventions.

But a handful hated it. Sir Edward Heath was utterly dismissive. Kenneth Clarke cheerfully ignored it. Ian Taylor sounded close to snapping and Michael Heseltine sounded sad. When Sir Archie Hamilton, the chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, offered his colleagues a Majorite middle position ("too early to judge") around which they could unite, the Europeanists looked uninterested.

They do judge: the Eurosceptics judge too; the wish to pretend otherwise is ebbing. Yesterday the tide looked irreversible.

Blair push for euro

Continued from page 1

political uncertainty, and the banks and business, which want a longer time to prepare.

Treasury officials said the Government would attempt to demonstrate that it had achieved economic stability in the runup to euro entry. They denied that this would amouint to "shadowing the euro".

Mr Blair was backed by Paddy Ashdown who said the Government had "crossed the Rubicon" and urged ministers openly to make the case for the single currency. With other Tory MPs glowering beside them, Mr Heseltine, Mr Clarke and Sir Edward Heath rowed in behind the Government.

But there was also dissent from veteran Labour Eurosceptics with Dennis Skinner warning against experiments with "genetically-modified currencies" and Tony Benn demanding a free vote for Labour MPs and the Cabinet.

Mr Blair retorted by mocking the unlikely "Thatcher-Portillo-Benn axis" opposed to the single currency. He added that once the decision to join the single currency had been taken, Britain could move to membership "considerably faster" than the 11 original euro-zone members. He also stressed the importance of the five economic tests the Government had set for membership being satisified.

All businesses would need to adapt their systems to the new currency. Smaller businesses could use "off the shelf" systems, but larger firms would face "more intricate challenges".

The CBI welcomed the changeover plans but called for a clearer commitment to joining. Other business chiefs raised the issue of economic convergence, calling for a clearer signal on how the Government would get the economics right for Britain to sign up for the euro.

But Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, criticised the government and said many smaller firms would face huge costs, with no return if they did not deal with Europe.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Carey plan to boycott the Dome

The Archbishop of Canterbury is to lead a boycott of the Millennium Dome celebrations if Christianity is sidelined on New Year's Eve.

Dr George Carey, in an interview in tomorrow's *Catholic Herald*, said that he would prefer to go to church if there was to be no Christian component in the celebrations, and that Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, would also boycott the Millennium Dome ceremony.

"If we are invited; and if there is going to be a significant moment of silence, saying the Lord's Prayer together, perhaps one or two other prayers, it will be worthwhile doing that. If we cannot be guaranteed that, we will be in our churches," Dr Carey said. "It will be a wonderful, glorious but essentially factless ceremony and anniversary unless it is connected with the birth of Jesus Christ."

Work is skin-deep

Long-term unemployed will receive funds to have visible tattoos removed to make it easier for them to get a job, in a trial scheme in Coventry. They may also get new haircuts, suits, and counselling for drink or drug problems to help to present a better image. The £2 million scheme for the over-25s aims to get 700 into work in 18 months.

Teaching 'craft'

Teaching is a craft not a profession, the Chief Inspector of Schools said. Chris Woodhead denied the term was critical. "My aim is to rescue teachers from the culture of deference which has for too long emasculated professional confidence. Good teaching is more than that a complex of technocratic competencies," he said in the annual Ofsted lecture.

Anti-fur Bill

A Private Member's Bill to end fur farming in Britain was unveiled yesterday by Maria Eagle, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston. It has cross-party support and the backing of animal welfare groups. The Bill aims to outlaw the "cruel and barbaric" farming of animals for fur and compensate producers for the loss of their livelihoods.

Joint force plan

RAF Harriers are to be combined with the Royal Navy's Sea Harriers as a single training and command organisation, the Defence Secretary said. Giving details of the plan, called Joint Force 2000, George Robertson said that air crews from the Navy and RAF would retain their uniforms and preserve their "single Service ethos".

Jog the memory

Mice that go running on an exercise wheel whenever they want create more cells in the hippocampus, the area of the brain involved in learning and memory, say scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. It is not known if this works for humans, but more people from the institute have taken up jogging

Irvine defends reforms

Legal profession given warning at *Times* Law Awards

THE Lord Chancellor last night dismissed concerns that he was rushing the legal profession into radical civil justice reforms, which take effect in April.

Lord Irvine of Lairg said that the draft rules for the changes, which bring in a quicker, cheaper system of civil justice, had been available since last July.

Judges will become trial managers, dictating the pace of litigation, setting strict timetables and imposing sanctions if litigants do not comply.

Some solicitors have expressed fears that they have not had enough time to get to grips with the final rules, published earlier this month. But Lord Irvine said: "Prudent lawyers have been using them for several months now as a guide to what will be expected of them. They are ready for April's changes. We are on time and the whole profession must be on time too."

Lord Irvine was speaking at the presentation of *The Times* Law Awards, held with One Essex Court, the chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC.

The winning essay on the title "Access to Justice — Who pays the Price?" was by Mike Thomas, a student at University College, Oxford. He received £3,000.

Second prize went to Sarah Palin, who is training to be a barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law after taking a history degree at Oxford; and the third prize went to Susana Sava, a Romanian student studying law at the London School of Economics. A special prize went to Rachael Levene, a 17-year-old schoolgirl from Nottingham.

Full details of the prizewinners and the winning essay will be published in *The Times* law pages next Tuesday.

Millennium sign of The Times



Headline news: the Millennium sculpture

By Mark Henderson

THE TIMES is to be the official millennium sponsor of the Prime Meridian line at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. The line of 0 degrees longitude — from which every clock in the world is set — will be marked by an electronic news feed that allows visitors to stand on the meridian and read up-to-the minute headlines from *The Times'* website. The screen will also show facts about time.

At the end of the line will stand a 2.6 metre Times Millennium Sculpture, a striking steel structure with a form that echoes the astronomical timepieces housed in the Royal Observatory. The sculpture, designed by the architect Cristina Garcia for 4i, is a twin to the Times Millennium Sculpture unveiled last year on London's Cromwell Road.

Greenwich has been recognised worldwide as the home of time since 1884, when the International Meridian Conference fixed the precise position of longitude 0. Dr Kristen Lippincott, director of the Royal Observatory, said: "We are delighted to welcome *The Times* to the Greenwich Meridian 2000 project. *The Times* sponsorship of the Meridian Line and the electronic news feed along the line at the Observatory reflect the crucial international importance of the Prime Meridian. The Meridian Line and *The Times* Millennium Sculpture will be focal points for the forthcoming millennium celebrations."

Planning permission for the project was granted until 2003 by Greenwich Council last week, and it will be formally launched in the spring. Building work, expected to last five weeks, will begin as soon as ancient monuments permission is obtained from the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott. Structural engineers are Atelier One and project management will be by Crowe and Nicholas.



Lottery funds granted for memorial to 'forgotten' soldiers from around world who fought for Britain

Gates to honour colonial war dead

By Dominic Kennedy



How the gates may look: the memorial trust has launched a competition to design three pairs of gates on Constitution Hill. They are likely to feature Asian, African and Caribbean motifs

THE courage of millions of soldiers from India, Africa and the Caribbean who volunteered to fight for the British Empire will be saluted with commemorative gates to be erected beside Buckingham Palace.

The Memorial Gates on Constitution Hill, part-funded by £900,000 from the National Lottery, will be the most prominent symbol yet of co-operation between Britain and people from the former colonies in two world wars.

The curry millionaire Ghulum Noon and the steel billionaire Lakshmi Mittal are among the most influential Asians in Britain forming the driving force of the Memorial Gates Trust. The gates were the idea of Baroness Flather, the first Asian woman peer, whose father served in the First World War in Mesopotamia, where 29,555 of 51,800 deaths were Indian.

Baroness Flather said: "Somebody once asked me 'Does Remembrance Sunday mean anything to you?' I didn't know what to do with that person, hit them or what, because people don't realise that so many of our people were there."

Her father, Aftab Rai, a student in Dublin in 1914, volunteered to serve as a medical orderly after Mahatma Gandhi said Indians could help the war effort but must not fight. During the Second World War, Mr Rai's cutlery factory in India made bayonets.

The gates will be sited at the top of Constitution Hill, near Hyde Park Corner, a spot which has to be cordoned off frequently with bollards. Constitution Hill was originally planted with a parade of trees for William III, who rode from Kensington Palace daily to the court at St James. It is named after the King's "constitutional". Today the route is used twice daily by guardsmen, riding from Knightsbridge Barracks to Buckingham Palace and Whitehall.

A competition is being launched to design and build what will be the most prestigious metalwork commission since the 1993 opening of the Hyde Park gates dedicated to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. There will be three pairs of gates spanning just over 50ft. They must be low enough to act as a frame for Wellington Arch.

Near by, a new crossing will allow pedestrians and riders to get from Green Park to Hyde Park Corner. The design will probably feature peacocks, which symbolise honour in South Asia, as well as African and Caribbean motifs.

For Baroness Flather, who was ennobled by Margaret Thatcher in 1990 but left the Conservatives over Viscount Cranborne's sacking, the project is a personal triumph.

She had to persuade the Millennium Commission to back her idea, which was competing against other ethnic minority proposals for the last tranche of lottery money being spent to mark 2000.

There was hostility from some of the ethnic minority press. *India Weekly* wrote: "One argument — some may call it the most persuasive — for the abolition of the House of Lords is Baroness Shreela Flather."

> 'People in Britain just don't realise that so many of our people were in the wars'

At first the High Commissions of India and Pakistan were ambivalent, believing that the wars had been fought for Britain. However, she has assembled as patrons the High Commissioners of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Jamaica and Uganda, as well as Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

The trustees include Viscount Slim, whose father Field Marshal William Slim, commander of the 14th Army, believed his Indian divisions were among the world's best.

Baroness Flather is launching an appeal to raise £900,000 to match the Millennium Commission's donation. Events will include dinners in the Tower of London and Banqueting House and a September *mela* or Indian fete in Hyde Park.

The 'improvident' call to arms

Khudadad Khan: first Indian holder of VC

"IT IS nothing short of a miracle which has called men from the uttermost ends of the Earth, some riding 20 days, which has caused human beings to do the most incalculable, improvident, and, from a narrow point of view, profitless things."

Thus Winston Churchill described to the House of Commons the Empire's response to the call to arms.

In the First World War, 1,440,500 Indians volunteered for military service for the "mother country". In the Punjab, 500,000 men out of a population of 20 million joined up, and in Nepal, whose Gurkha regiment was an important part of the Indian Army, 73,000 out of three million volunteered. A total of 47,000 Indians were killed and 65,000 wounded. The first Indian to be awarded the Victoria Cross was Sepoy Khudadad Khan who in 1914, as the only survivor of a machine-gun team, went on fighting against overwhelming odds at Ypres. Another 11 Indians won Victoria Crosses.

Britain recruited 30,000 Africans into the King's African Rifles, as well as Indians, plus carriers, for the long East African campaign. Among Africans, at least 2,900 soldiers and 39,000 carriers died.

More than 15,000 men of the British West Indies Regiment saw action in France, Palestine, Egypt and Italy, and more than 2,000 of them were killed.

By the end of the Second World War, there were 2.5 million people in the Indian Army. The Gurkhas lost 7,000 of their 120,000 men, because they served disproportionately as front-line troops.

The Indian Army took part in some of the toughest fighting in Burma, North Africa and Italy, and captured Monte Cassino. Of the 27 Victoria Crosses awarded during the Burma Campaign, 20 went to members of the Indian armed forces.

Almost 6,000 West Indians served in the RAF, including 300 as aircrew. Some trained first with the Royal Canadian Air Force. A total of 103 were decorated.

More than 375,000 Africans fought in the Second World War in the Middle East, East Africa, Italy and the Far East.

Drug overdose blamed for death of girl, 13

By A Correspondent

A GIRL aged 13 has died from a suspected drugs overdose, it emerged yesterday.

Leah Lawson's mother found her daughter's body on the sofa of their Grimsby home on Saturday afternoon. Police were called and a Home Office pathologist carried out a post-mortem examination. An inquest will open after the results of toxicology tests are known. Leah is believed to have used drugs including heroin in the past and had already suffered overdoses.

Her mother yesterday condemned drug dealers who had blighted the Nunsthorpe estate and said her "happy-go-lucky" daughter who had been drawn into a wrong crowd. "She had everything to live for. How the drug dealers can do it I don't know," Jean Lawson told a local newspaper.

She said she had returned to her home on Saturday to find the girl slumped on the sofa. At first she thought Leah was asleep and wearing white lipstick but soon realised that she was dead.

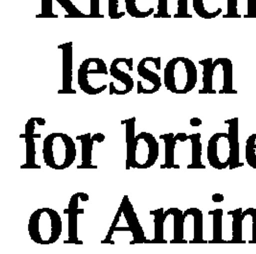
The tragedy was the culmination in a downward spiral which started when Leah had become involved in "a bad crowd", she said.

Leah dabbled in drugs and moved on to heroin, before trying for the first time the mixture of methadone, Valium and nitrazepam that is feared to have claimed her life. Mrs Lawson said: "She's taken three overdoses already. It was 50-50 with one overdose."

Relatives said Mrs Lawson, who has another daughter aged 27, had contacted social services and a local drugs support charity to try to get help.

A spokeswoman for Northeast Lincolnshire County Council's social services department confirmed that the family had been in contact shortly before her death.

Anti-drugs campaigners were quick to highlight the growing cases of teenage drug abuse. Paul Betts, whose daughter Leah died from taking Ecstasy in 1995, urged the Government to offer more support for young people and their parents.





Leah Lawson: three previous overdoses

Kitchen lesson for bride of Amin

By Adam Sherwin

THE ex-wife of Idi Amin, the deposed Ugandan dictator, narrowly escaped jail yesterday when she admitted allowing her London restaurant to become infested with cockroaches and mice.

Sarah Kyolaba Amin, 42, was known as Suicide Sarah when she caught the tyrant's eye as a teenage go-go dancer with the Revolutionary Suicide Mechanised Regiment band. They parted in 1982. Yesterday she was said to have learnt inadequate kitchen lore from her mother when she went into business as a restaurateur in 1997.

She cooked surrounded by vermin, filth and grease at the "S" restaurant in Forest Gate, East London. There was no soap, towels, hot water or ventilation. An environmental health officer was so horrified that the dilapidated premises were promptly closed, Snaresbrook Crown Court was told.

Amin admitted seven breaches of food hygiene standards. Judge Deva Pillay said this could normally command a prison sentence but the fact she had no previous convictions, had pleaded guilty and had "drastically" improved conditions at the premises which have reopened, meant he could take an "exceptionally lenient" course. She was given a conditional discharge and told to pay £1,000 costs.

Beeton letters fetch £18,400

By Robin Young

LETTERS penned by Mrs Beeton revealing that the Victorians' Delia Smith loathed dinner parties fetched £18,400 at auction yesterday.

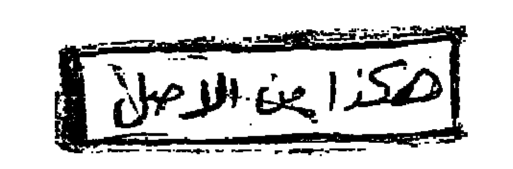
The love letters sent by the then Isabella Mayson to Samuel Orchart Beeton shortly before their wedding in 1856, were snapped up by an anonymous buyer at Bonhams in London.

On one of the 16 letters — which were signed "Your affectionate Fatty" and "Yours pour toujours" — the celebrated author of the 1861 *Book of Household Management* writes: "Much to my annoyance I have discovered this morning that I was invited to Mr White's tomorrow evening, so shall have to go through that terrible ordeal, a dinner party; I do so hate it; a good dance somewhere is much more in my line."

Writing from her family home in Epsom, Surrey, she implores Sam to attend an impending dinner party with her, writing: "I do hope you will not disappoint me because you know very well these formal feeds I abominate ... Pray do not leave me to sit three or four hours with some old man I care not a straw about."

In another letter, she chides her husband-to-be for neglecting to visit her for 10 days.

David Park, Bonhams' manuscripts specialist, said that the letters "shed a surprising new light on a woman who was the Delia Smith of her day".



Snow chaos leaves 40,000 stranded

Adrian Lee and **Adam Sage** in Paris report on how holiday dreams are turning into nightmares as avalanches threaten key resorts

HUNDREDS of British holidaymakers were stranded yesterday as the worst snowfalls in living memory caused chaos in resorts throughout Europe. It was estimated that at least 40,000 people were cut off by heavy snow or the risk of avalanche.

A group of more than 50 British holidaymakers have been stranded in the Austrian resort of Lech since Saturday, unable to catch flights home.

Among them was Kenneth McKenzie, a solicitor from Chiswick, west London, his wife, Jane, their three children and a schoolfriend.

Snow has been falling constantly since the middle of last week making escape from the region impossible.

According to Mr McKenzie, who was scheduled to fly home last weekend, there is a waiting list of more than 1,000 for private flights out.

"The worst thing is the lack of information," he said. "It could be two days or five days before we get out. We are haemorrhaging money — there is no novelty to it at all and people are frankly fed up."

He has been faxed work by his office and homework for his children, who are pupils at St Paul's in Hammersmith.

According to the authorities in Austria, the stress of being trapped is beginning to cause "psychological tension" in some resorts.

"I have not seen any fist fights yet," said Mr McKenzie. "But it is pretty fraught at the tourist office where people are trying to get information."

With only two ski lifts out of more than 30 open, there is little opportunity to ski, he said.

The family is ready to leave at a moment's notice, and is prepared to leave luggage behind if it means getting home.

Helicopters flying injured people out for hospitalisation were yesterday bringing in food and tons of mail, which was piling up because entire valleys were cut off.

Other Britons are stranded in Ischgl, in the Tyrol, and Grindelwald, in the Swiss Alps, where supplies of fresh food have run out and diesel is being rationed.

It is feared that a massive wall of snow above Grindelwald could be dislodged at any time. Small convoys of lorries, their drivers carrying transmitters in case they are buried, were being allowed to enter the village at dawn, when the risk was at its lowest.

One British company, Powderbyrne, has hired helicopters to airlift 120 clients out of Grindelwald.

Thousands of people are stranded in other Swiss resorts and helicopters were being used to fly British tourists into St Moritz to begin holidays.

In the Chamonix area in France most runs were closed and some holidaymakers were returning home complaining that they had been unable to ski for the majority of their stays.

"It is a complete nightmare," said Natasha Wright, a representative with Ski Weekend, which was using vans to take clients to other resorts where conditions were better. There they faced queues of more than two hours for lifts.

In Holland, the Government has advised people not to take skiing holidays.

"There hasn't been this much snow in 50 years," said Bas Kuik, a spokesman for the Dutch tourist board. It would be the first time the board had advised people to keep away from Austria, Switzerland and France, he said.

But British companies said they had no plans to suspend operations. Many were frantically switching clients away from the worst hit resorts.

A spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) said that only a handful of people had cancelled holidays because of the increased avalanche risk.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office warned Britons to ensure that they had adequate insurance cover and to be aware of the risks of skiing off piste.

The Ski Club of Great Britain said that improved equipment for skiing and snowboarding was encouraging inexperienced people to be over adventurous.

Skis with wider ends and tips, and snowboards, have enabled relative novices to become reasonably accomplished more quickly than in the past and tempted them to seek the thrill of powder skiing off piste before they have sufficient experience.

It also suggested that skiers carry transmitters where there was a possibility of avalanche and not to rely on mobile telephones to call for help.

In Chamonix French ski guides said that they knew that a large part of their clientele was drawn to the area by the promise of off-piste skiing and snowboarding and would go elsewhere if this was banned permanently.

Also, the 120,000 people employed by French ski resorts create a lobby group in favour of keeping the slopes open that is difficult for the French Government or local politicians to resist.

Thousands of people, most of them tourists, are stranded at the ski resorts of Klosters and Davos in eastern Switzerland where the maximum avalanche alert is in effect, local authorities said yesterday.

Road and rail access to the Swiss resorts has been blocked and the ski stations cut off with 26 roads impassable in the canton of Grisons.

Transport by helicopter has not been possible due to bad weather conditions.

In the Evolene region in the southern Swiss canton of Valais, dual avalanches on Sunday night are feared to have killed 10 people after destroying nine chalets.

The bodies of two men in their twenties were found in a car, but eight others — including two French families — are still missing and the chances of finding them are increasingly slim, according to rescuers.

During Monday in the Valais, an avalanche reportedly hit every 20 minutes.

A 42-year-old man is still missing, feared dead, in an avalanche that yesterday swept away a house in Bristen in the central canton of Uri, from where some 200 people have been evacuated.

Rescuers and heavy equipment had to be ferried in by helicopter because of avalanche risks.

And one of the heaviest snowfalls of the century paralysed travel in western and southern Germany, stranding tens of thousands of passengers at train stations and freezing traffic on the autobahns.

The city of Aachen, on the border with Belgium and The Netherlands, was cut off for hours after ten inches of snow fell overnight. Meteorologists called it the area's deepest snow of the century.

Along the swollen Rhine River, meanwhile, the first sandbags were being laid in Cologne as a precaution against flooding.

The water was still more than three feet below flood level but was rising, pushed by melting snow and rain from the Swiss headwaters. Shipping traffic was suspended on large stretches of the river.

The chaos extended into eastern Europe and Scandinavia as well.

Two Czech tourists were missing and feared dead after they were caught in an avalanche on Sunday in Romania's Carpathian mountains, some 203 miles west of Bucharest.

Heavy snowfalls followed by rain had flooded thousands of acres of Romanian farmland and cut off northwestern villages, local media said last night.

The independent Mediafax news agency said an avalanche had swept away the two Czechs, who had left their group to take a different route on the snowbound Muntele Mic mountain on Sunday.

Snowstorms over the past two days had prevented rescuers from searching for the bodies, it said.

Heavy snows cut off hundreds of villages on the northern border with Ukraine.

Rains and a quick thaw on the western border with Hungary flooded tens of villages and swamped hundreds of acres of land under various crops.

The Romanian Defence Ministry said that it had sent troops with rubber boats to evacuate villagers from a flooded areas where soldiers were also helping the population to raise dikes on local rivers.

Meteorologists are predicting more rain and snow throughout the week.

In Finland rescuers called off search operations overnight, amid reports that an avalanche in the ski resort of Yllaes may not have claimed any victims after all.

On Monday reports had indicated eight people were missing. But investigations using heat-detecting cameras had found no sign of bodies, the STT/FNB news agency said yesterday.

In Hungary hundreds of families were evacuated after their homes collapsed due to snow melting after weeks of cold weather, while authorities in the east of the country are preparing for heavy flooding, officials said.

ANDY METTLER / REUTERS



Workers shovel snow from a roof in Klosters yesterday. Unusually heavy snowfalls in the Alps have triggered catastrophic avalanches and left many villages cut off

UNITED KINGDOM
GERMANY
200 miles
Valais
Avalanche every 20 minutes, 8 missing in Evolène
AUSTRIA
Resorts cut off include St Anton, Ishgl, Lech, Züers and Staben. 55 missing in Galtür after avalanche. Two killed in Gargellen
UKRAINE
Atlantic Ocean
SWITZERLAND
FRANCE
HUNGARY
ROMANIA
Two feared dead in Carpathians
Chamonix
Skiing banned
Grindelwald
Britons airlifted, many trapped
SERBIA
BULGARIA
Black Sea
Pyrenées
Two walkers missing
Morgex
One killed, 3 injured
ITALY
ALBANIA
SPAIN
GREECE
TURKEY

'We're fed up — there's a waiting list of more than 1,000 for private flights out of here'

Courts try to curb off-piste thrill-seekers

Heavy falls and warm weather maximising the dangers, writes **Adam Sage** in Paris

WITH more than 20 people, including six Britons, killed in the French Alps alone since the start of the year, this holiday season is one of the deadliest on record.

Michel Daloz, a forecaster with the French weather office, Méteo France, said "extreme conditions" were to blame.

"Usually we could expect about one metre of snow since the beginning of the season at an altitude of 2,000 metres (6,560ft) in the Alps. This year we have had three metres of snow. That only happens every decade or so.

"But we have also had high winds and spells of warm weather which have made the snow deeply unstable and provoked a maximum risk of avalanches. That is absolutely exceptional. And elsewhere in Europe it has been even worse than in France."

M Daloz said conditions would improve slightly towards the end of this week and then deteriorate.

But the weather is only part of the explanation for the high death rate in the mountains across Europe. The growing popularity of skiing holidays is another.

The number of foreign holidaymakers who head for the French Alps has increased from 840,000 in 1987 to an estimated 1.6 million this year. Among them are more than 50,000 Britons. About 900,000 French tourists will stay in Alpine resorts this winter. French police say the result is an inevitable increase in fatal accidents since "there is no such thing as a risk-free mountain".

However, the attraction of off-piste activities, notably snowboarding, has added to the death rate, since these pursuits often take holidaymakers on to slopes prone to avalanches.

One survey in France reported that up to 30 per cent of skiers and snowboarders were tempted to leave official pistes in pursuit of excitement and freedom.

The French authorities have tried to crack down, making it a criminal offence to wander off piste. Yet their difficulties were illustrated on Monday by the weakness of the case against three Britons who told a French court that they stumbled by accident on to a slope that had been closed in Val d'Isère.

The holidaymakers face fines of Fr5,000 (£510) if found guilty of endangering the lives of their rescuers.

Elsewhere the authorities have tried to reduce risks by closing popular resorts. But with winter holidays generating Fr40 billion for the French economy there is pressure to keep open the pistes.

Joel Eeckoudt, a town hall official in Praz de Lys in the French Alps, said that the Britons among the 5,000 tourists caught in his resort since Saturday had abandoned the slopes. "They are playing cards. I think they are having a very good time and I think they will come back."

French officials are caught between the conflicting demands of a powerful tourist industry and the acute need to impose safety on popular mountain slopes. It is a dilemma they have been unable to resolve.

Earlier this month, for instance, the prefecture of the Haute-Savoie in the French Alps took the unprecedented step of making it temporarily a criminal offence to go off piste.

But it had to back down as ski-lift operators and mountain guides in the town of Chamonix threatened to strike in protest.

Police in Chamonix say one way of reducing fatal accidents is for tourists to seek better information on the prevailing weather conditions. Too often, officers say, holidaymakers ignore safety warnings and the risks.



A tourist carries his daughter from a helicopter after being airlifted from an avalanche zone yesterday

Black murder victim's family support police

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

TWO miles from the place where Stephen Lawrence died, a far more thorough investigation has begun into the suspicious death of another young black man.

Detectives have confirmed that they are treating as murder the death of Sheldon Bobb, a 21-year-old lifeguard, who was found dying from head injuries outside his house in Lewisham, southeast London.

Within 40 minutes of the alarm being raised on Sunday afternoon, police had sealed off the scene and were conducting house-to-house inquiries. They have not ruled out a racial attack and say that they are keeping an "open mind" about possible motives.

Kerry Runacre, 19, the mother of one of Mr Bobb's two children, said that she thought the police were "doing a lot". "They are really trying this time," she said. "Sheldon had loads of black, white and Asian friends. He was just a nice, friendly person. We don't get racial attacks around here. Everyone gets on." Mr Bobb's family yesterday joined Detective Chief Inspector Chris Horne, who is leading the investigation, at Shooters Hill police station, on the road where Stephen Lawrence was murdered.



Sheldon Bobb: found dying outside his home

Mr Bobb's mother, Glynis Brewster, 43, said: "Sheldon was a loving son and as a person he was very passionate about justice, so if anybody knows anything at all it is really important to be brave or concerned enough to share what you know so that he can have some justice for himself."

Mr Horne said that he believed the attack was carried out with a blunt instrument, but said that no weapon, witnesses or suspects had yet been found. He said that Mr Bobb was "popular", had no known enemies and no criminal record.

Neighbours called an ambulance upon finding Mr Bobb, and hospital staff contacted police after becoming suspicious about his head injury and body bruising. An autopsy found that he died from shock and bleeding, and that his injuries were not consistent with a fall or car accident. Mr Horne, acutely aware of the timing of the inquiry, explained in detail police actions during the first days of the investigation and confirmed that he had spoken to Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, the racial task force and intelligence experts about trying to match the attack to other crimes in the racially mixed area.

He said that Mr Bobb was found at 2.45pm on Sunday, and that the hospital alerted police at 3.06pm. Police arrived at the scene about 3.23pm, sealed it off and began house-to-house inquiries, which continued yesterday. There were 20 officers on the case, with "all the full facilities of any murder inquiry", he said. Asked if she was happy with the response, Mrs Brewster said: "It is early days."

Letters, page 21

ANTHONY UPTON



Mr Bobb's sister, Sherry-Ann, and his mother, Glynis Brewster. "He was passionate about justice," Mrs Brewster said

No charges over death at private prison

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN officers at a privately run jail will not be prosecuted for manslaughter over the death of a black prisoner. The Crown Prosecution Service said last night there was no realistic prospect of a conviction.

Alton Manning, 33, a prisoner at Blakenhurst, near Redditch, died in 1995 after being put in a headlock during a struggle when officers removed him from his cell. Last year an inquest jury returned a unanimous verdict that he was unlawfully killed at the prison, run by United Kingdom Detention Services.

He was on remand accused of malicious wounding and illegal possession of a firearm. The seven officers were suspended after the inquest verdict and will remain away from duty until a Prison Service inquiry is completed.

Raju Bhatt, solicitor for Mr Manning's family, said that a formal complaint had been lodged with West Mercia police about the conduct of the investigation into the death.

Any minister guilty of leak will be sacked

BY ROLAND WATSON AND MICHAEL HARVEY

ANY minister found to be responsible for leaking the Stephen Lawrence report will be immediately sacked, Downing Street said yesterday. "The Prime Minister would not countenance a minister doing that," Mr Blair's official spokesman said.

Downing Street gave its warning less than 24 hours after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, had refused to clear his ministerial team of involvement and failed to say if the culprit would be dismissed if unmasked.

David Omand, the Home Office Permanent Secretary, has begun his internal inquiry into the affair, which saw an injunction being served on *The Sunday Telegraph* on Saturday night, and then lifted on Sunday.

Kate Hoey, the junior Home Office minister with responsibilities for the Metropolitan Police, contacted Mr Omand's office yesterday to inform him that she had not seen a copy of the report.

Paul Boateng, the Minister of State at the Home Office, who, with a select band of senior civil servants in the department, did receive one of the few copies, yesterday avoided the issue of the leak. At Euston station in London for the launch of a helpline for runaways, he was asked what he would be telling Mr Omand. He smiled and made no comment before leaving.

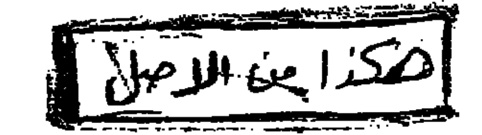
Mr Omand is also believed to have been told that Lord Williams of Mostyn, the other Minister of State in the Home Office, did not receive a copy.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that the issues raised by the report, which is officially published today, are wide-ranging.

The report will accuse the Metropolitan Police of "institutional racism". Mr Ashdown said that racism was endemic in Britain, and not confined to institutions such as the police.

He said that it would be "a great mistake" if the report was seen as highlighting problems that were exclusively problems for the police. "Racism exists in every part of our society," he said in a speech to mark the Commission for Racial Equality's "leadership challenge".

" Stephen Lawrence died, at least in part, because we have not been sufficiently vigilant against racism."



Daughter 'left sick mother on floor for week'

By Simon de Bruxelles

A WOMAN who allegedly left her mother lying on the floor for a week after she collapsed yesterday pleaded not guilty to her manslaughter.

Benita Pearce, 33, was said to have made no attempt to get help for her housebound mother Isabella, 62, with whom she lived in St Austell, Cornwall.

Instead of calling a doctor, she covered her mother with a duvet and went to work as though nothing was amiss, Truro Crown Court was told. By the time she summoned medical help, her mother was in abject squalor and unconscious. She died two days after being admitted to hospital.



Pearce: denies charge of manslaughter

Roderick Denyer, QC, for the prosecution, said that Isabella Pearce had been forced to give up her job as a store detective because she had rheumatoid arthritis. After she became housebound her daughter took over most of the household chores and continued to work as a supermarket sales assistant.

Mr Denyer said: "On Monday, October 13, 1997, she found her mother lying on the floor in the sitting room. She did not pick her mother up and she certainly did not call for assistance. Benita Pearce carried on going to work and made little or no attempt to look after her mother when she got home, other than to give her an occasional drink of water.

"Her mother was incontinent but at no stage was she taken to the toilet or any effort made to clean her up. The Crown's case is that if her mother had been dealt with, whatever the reason for her being on the floor, she would not have died." Miss Pearce made an appointment for Stephen Mather, her mother's GP, to make a house call but showed no sense of urgency. When he arrived the Monday after the fall he was shocked by the state of his patient.

He told the jury: "Mrs Pearce was deeply unconscious, propped up in the hallway. She was covered with a heavily soiled duvet and, in my judgment, was in immediate need of hospitalisation."

Mrs Pearce was taken to hospital at Truro and died two days later from blood poisoning caused by a perforated bowel.

After her arrest, Miss Pearce told police that she had thought her mother would get "fed up" with lying on the floor and get up of her own accord.

Detective Constable Steve Osborne said that Miss Pearce said in a taped interview: "She could be very awkward. She won't get ready on time when I am taking her out and sometimes she doesn't make it to the loo in the morning. At night she has started turning on all the lights. I was worried about her but she was insistent that she was OK."

The trial continues.



The Taylor family in 1991, with Nicholas third from left at the back. His parents said that he may have been seeking a thrill when he hanged himself

Family say Eton boy did not want to die

By Helen Johnstone

THE father of the Eton pupil who hanged himself in his college room had been held hostage by the Iraqis in Kuwait during the Gulf War, it emerged yesterday.

Malcolm Taylor, from Esher, Surrey, who ran an agricultural greenhouse business, was held captive when war broke out in 1991 after being captured while on a business trip. His son Nicholas, 15, who was a member of Baldwins Bec house, was found hanged in his bedroom on Monday after he failed to appear for breakfast.

Yesterday Mr Taylor rejected suggestions that his son had committed suicide, instead suggesting that he may have been experimenting. Nicholas had been on an assisted place at Eton; his father's business declined as a result of his captivity.

In 1992, Mr Taylor's wife, Frances, told a newspaper of the family's anguish while he was held hostage. She said the children "became very quiet and developed nervous tics and things. We were under enormous pressure because we had no income at all."

Yesterday, Mr and Mrs Taylor caring for their three other children, appealed for information that would shed light on the death.

Mr Taylor rejected any suggestion that his son had been suicidal because of bullying at Eton. He added that Nicholas had been very close to his older brother, and had there been any suggestion of involvement with drugs, Jamie, who is 16, would have known about it. The parents told the London *Evening Standard* that they thought Nicholas might have been experimenting with thrill-seeking of some kind.

Mr Taylor said that Nicholas had been very happy and well-adjusted. Mrs Taylor had spoken to him on Sunday and he had been delighted to have been offered skiing holidays by two friends.

Mr Taylor disclosed, however, that Nicholas would worry when his father's work took him away from home. "He was a very sensitive, thoughtful kid. He would worry about when I went away on my travels for work. I was just back last week."

James Thompson, senior lecturer in psychology at University College London, and an expert in reactions to hostage-taking, said that being withdrawn and developing strange behaviour were understandable in a family when a loved-one had been taken hostage. If this persisted, specialist help was generally required. "If a child is coming up to GCSEs they could be under even more pressure. They could become very distressed," he said.

Talk about feelings, suicidal men told

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THE Samaritans and GPs are to work together to try to curb the rapidly growing suicide rate among young men.

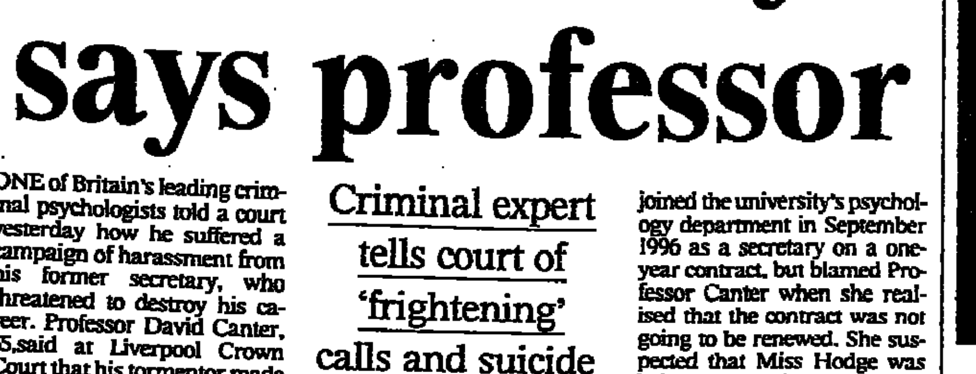
Suicide among men in their teens and twenties has risen by 80 per cent since the start of the 1980s and is second to road accidents as a cause of death in the age group.

In 1996, the last year for which there are full figures, there were 280 deaths from suicide among men in the 15 to 24 age group compared with five from Aids, 24 from drug abuse and 173 from cancer.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of problems young men face and to encourage them to talk about their feelings. Posters will urge those with emotional problems to seek help from their doctors.

Simon Armson, chief executive of The Samaritans, said: "We must give young men the time and space they need to talk openly about despairing and suicidal feelings."

I was stalked by secretary, says professor



Criminal expert tells court of 'frightening' calls and suicide threats, reports Russell Jenkins

ONE of Britain's leading criminal psychologists told a court yesterday how he suffered a campaign of harassment from his former secretary, who threatened to destroy his career. Professor David Canter, 55, said at Liverpool Crown Court that his tormentor made dozens of "frightening" telephone calls.

Over 18 months, Gillian Hartshorne, 50, made increasingly abusive calls accusing the academic of an adulterous affair with a young research assistant, he said. Mrs Hartshorne claimed she had been forced out of her job to make way for the woman, and made up to 20 telephone calls to Professor Canter's home each night angrily blaming him for being sacked, losing her home and having to have her cat put down. She told him repeatedly he would be responsible when she killed herself.

Professor Canter, head of the Centre for Investigative Psychology at Liverpool University, said that the messages left on his answering machine were "very disturbing."

"I felt very distressed and, on occasions, very fearful that she would follow through with the various threats that are contained within those calls," he said. "There are threats to take her own life. She seems to be implying she is going to get at me, attack me in some way."

Mrs Hartshorne, a divorcee of Great Sutton, Wirral, Merseyside, faces three charges of under the Protection from Harassment Act. She denies two charges of causing fear of violence to Professor Canter and a similar charge relating to Samantha Hodge, a research student.

John Philpotts, for the prosecution, said that Hartshorne joined the university's psychology department in September 1996 as a secretary on a one-year contract, but blamed Professor Canter when she realised that the contract was not going to be renewed. She suspected that Miss Hodge was being groomed to take over her duties.

Mr Philpotts said: "Mrs Hartshorne began a campaign of harassment against Professor Canter ... There were threats to ruin his career and threats to destroy him."

Professor Canter, who pioneered the use of psychology in identifying criminals and has helped police with investigations, taped scores of the messages that Mrs Hartshorne left him between November 1996 and March last year. Mrs Hartshorne wept as they were played to the court.

The trial continues.



Mrs Hartshorne blamed Professor Canter for being sacked





Joan Cooper, marking her 106th birthday, and her lifelong friend Margaret Reed: they died within six days of each other

Friends 'died rather than leave home'

By Peter Gleeson

TWO retired doctors lost the will to live after being told that the Red Cross residential home they had founded 50 years ago was to close, relatives said yesterday. Joan Cooper, 106, and Margaret Reed, 98, died within six days of each other after several weeks in which they are said to have refused to eat anything but toast and water.

The women spent £2,000 on legal fees trying to stop the closure of the Meadowcroft Residential Home, near Cambridge, where they became residents 16 years ago. Dr Reed died in hospital on February 12, a few days after breaking her hip in a fall. Dr Cooper died six days later at Meadowcroft.

The Red Cross is closing the home at the end of next month because it cannot find enough residents and cannot meet health and safety rules. Dr Reed's niece, Jinx Nolan, said: "I don't think it's a coincidence that they died one month before the place was to close. They gave up." A long-time friend of the doctors, Dr Elizabeth Shoenberg, said: "They undoubtedly willed themselves to die. Margaret said to me three weeks before she died that they were not going to move her. She said 'I've always got a way out.'"

The doctors, neither of whom married, had been lifelong friends and pioneering GPs who specialised in treating women and children. In 1949, they helped to found the 14-room care home for the elderly under a 90-year lease from Cambridge University. Seven years ago, Dr Cooper was awarded a Red Cross medal for her work for the aged. Two elderly residents remain at Meadowcroft and they will be transferred when it closes.

Dorothy Quayle, director for the Red Cross, said the closure had been decided two years ago: "It was no longer financially viable but there are a lot of issues, including health and safety. I'm so sad it has come to this because both doctors had wonderful lives."

Lady driver, 81, led police a dance

By Susie Steiner

THE 81-year-old mother of Lord Huntingfield has been ordered to return to driving school after leading police officers on a 15-mile car chase.

The Dowager Lady Huntingfield remained oblivious to attempts to pull her over with strobe lights, indicators and a floodlight, a court was told. She repeatedly swerved across the A14 in Suffolk, thinking the police car was attempting to pass her on its way to an accident.

When the police pulled alongside and tried to direct her into a layby, she thought that they were waving cheerfully at her. Finally the officers overtook and blocked her path.

Lady Huntingfield, of Cambridge, who is the widow of the 6th Baron of Huntingfield, admitted dangerous driving at Cambridge Magistrates' Court on Monday and was banned for 12 months. She was fined £56 and ordered to undergo an extended retest.

"I kept on trying to get out of the way," she said. "I suppose they think that I was mad as a coot."

Local poll backs big council tax rise

By Mark Henderson

A LABOUR council is to raise council tax by more than twice the maximum recommended by the Government after winning the approval of voters in a local referendum.

Householders in Milton Keynes will pay 9.8 per cent more council tax next year after supporting the unitary authority's spending plans in a telephone and postal ballot. Almost 70 per cent voted for the 9.8 per cent rise or an even steeper rise of 15 per cent. Only 31 per cent supported a lower rise of 5 per cent.

The turnout of 44.7 per cent dwarfed the 26 per cent at the last local elections. The 66,647 who voted made the poll the largest local consultation in Britain.

Milton Keynes is one of a number of councils to ignore guidance from John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, that council tax should not rise by more than 4.5 per cent. Several Home Counties authorities are proposing double-figure increases, including neighbouring Buckinghamshire with 13.4 per cent.

Although Mr Prescott has said he will not flinch from punishing profligate councils, it would be difficult for him to cap Milton Keynes as the Prime Minister has said that he sees local referendums as part of the future of local government. Councils seeking big tax rises ought to seek a direct mandate from their residents, Tony Blair wrote in a Fabian Society pamphlet last year.

Hilary Armstrong, Local Government Minister, said that the Government wanted to make it easier for councils to hold local referendums. "We intend to legislate to put powers to hold referendums on a firmer footing," she said.

Milton Keynes Council and the Electoral Reform Society, which ran the ballot, will be compiling a report and holding a Local Government Association seminar about the vote.

Kevin Wilson, the council leader, said: "We are proud of our innovation and the extent of the turnout. The people of Milton Keynes are used to innovation and they have delivered a clear verdict."

He said that Alan Meale, the Environment Minister, had "saluted" their plans and that the Government would be wrong to cap in defiance of voters' wishes.

The referendum proved that local voters were prepared to pay more to preserve key services, Mr Wilson said. Many council tax -payers had complained before the poll that the votes of those who did not pay, such as students and the unemployed, could force through a big increase but such fears proved wide of the mark.

While about 15 per cent of the residents, less than the national average, get a council tax rebate or pay nothing, 32 per cent of those eligible to vote supported large rises.

Opposition councillors said that the £70,000 spent on the referendum was a waste of money and had obtained a spurious mandate for a proposal that would otherwise have been voted through by councillors at no extra cost.


Wilson: said the vote delivered a clear verdict


GUY NEWMAN

They're off: Jackie Ballard's constituents at Taunton racecourse decry her views on hunting but admit that she is a "rather good MP"

Outsider in the Lib Dem race could surprise the favourites

James Landale meets the blunt-speaking MP likely to be the only woman contender to succeed Paddy Ashdown

Jackie Ballard would appear from her curriculum vitae to embody all things Liberal Democrat. The MP for Taunton is a former lecturer, social worker, and council leader who studied psychology at the London School of Economics. She is pro-European Union and believes there should be a royal commission on drug abuse.

Whatever the image, the reality of this potential candidate to succeed Paddy Ashdown as party leader is more paradoxical.

Mrs Ballard, 46, opposes hunting with a passion, yet in 1997 took from the Tories a constituency stuffed with followers of the hounds. She was recruited to the Liberal Party in 1985 by Mr Ashdown himself, yet has vocally opposed her mentor on several issues. She is an egalitarian who nevertheless backs positive discrimination to get more women into politics. She is on a diet — "three stone down, three to go" — and is a vegetarian who used to sit on the usually carnivorous Commons catering committee.

The common thread is a decisiveness and adherence to principle. As one colleague put it: "Jackie may look cuddly, but she has sharp edges." In her own typically blunt words, she has "balls".

At Taunton races the locals in their tweeds and trilbies privately decried her views on hunting but respected the courage of her convictions. "She is also rather a good MP," they admitted. Like all the potential leadership candidates, Mrs Ballard has made no firm declaration of her intentions. Away in Mexico when Mr Ashdown announced that he was to retire in the summer, she was greeted on her return with calls to stand. "I was overwhelmed by the range of support," she says. She is giving the matter serious consideration.

Were she to stand, she insists, it would be no token gesture to gain women in the party more prominence, nor to put a marker down for the next leadership election. "I wouldn't stand for anything unless it was to win. I would stand because I had something to say: I wouldn't do it just to put up a good show.

"I have been underestimated in the past and people have lived to regret it."

On the central issue of whether Lib Dem co-operation with Labour should go beyond constitutional matters, her stance is simple: she opposes it. In November she was one of four on the party's federal executive to vote against. Co-operation should only reach into other areas once the constitutional programme is complete: when there is proportional representation at Westminster.

"If we are too closely tied in with [the Government] on anything other than constitutional issues, we risk being less effective in opposing them and in getting our message across. I don't want people to be confused by the differences between the Liberal Democrats and Labour. I don't think we got elected round here by being wishy-washy or middle of the road."

Mrs Ballard, a party spokesman on local government, health and women's issues, has advantages over her rivals. She would be the only female candidate — in a field of otherwise rather grey men — to lead a party keen to see more women in its senior ranks. She is one of three female MPs in the party's 46-strong team.

As president of the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors, and a former town hall leader in Somerset, she is well known to the party's local government base. She is popular among the apparatchiks, topping the poll last autumn for the federal executive.

Last year she blocked Mr Ashdown's plan to make it party policy that neighbourhood trusts should take control of schools from local authorities. She failed to persuade the party to support plans to ensure at least half of all constituencies had women on their candidate shortlists.

Mrs Ballard suggests that the type of leader the party needs now "is someone who will articulate the difference between us and Labour but also adopt a more collegiate leadership — less a one-man band". Were she leader, policy would not change, but there would be more emphasis on redistribution of wealth, fighting injustice and protecting the environment.

These have been Mrs Ballard's concerns since she was a girl. Born in Scotland to a woodcutter and a nurse, she was brought up in Wales, a scholarship girl among the more well-off pupils at a Monmouth boarding school, where she was a self-confessed troublemaker. The young Jacqueline Mackenzie's favourite book was Zola's *Germinal*: the vivid portrayal of poverty and injustice stays with her today.

Her marriage to Derek Ballard ended in 1989. Their daughter, 19, is a photography student. For relaxation, the MP listens to Celtic rock music and swims daily.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs urge speed cut on rural roads

Speed limits on country roads should be cut to 40mph to reduce the number of fatal accidents, MPs said yesterday.

Fifty MPs signed a Commons motion calling for an end to 60mph limits. Some campaigners are also pressing for 20mph zones in villages and the creation of "quiet lanes" on which cyclists, pedestrians and horse-riders would have priority over cars.

Of the 3,599 road deaths last year, 1,938 occurred on minor roads, almost all of which are in the countryside. Ministers are reviewing speed restrictions, but are nervous about imposing low speed limits in remote areas where effective enforcement would stretch police resources.

Midnight Monet

The Royal Academy of Arts will open overnight on Saturday, April 17, to cope with public demand on the last weekend of the *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition. A record 210,000 visitors have already seen the show.

£17,000 jersey

The red jersey worn by Roger Hunt when he raised the World Cup in 1966 sold for £17,250. Hunt had swapped his England shirt with his West German opposite number. Gordon Moushino, 44, who was at the final, bought the jersey at Sotheby's.

Runaway help

A free advice line has been set up for the 40,000 children who run away from home each year. The London-based service, run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, is open from 5pm to 11pm on 0800 096 0096. It is hoped that it will become nationwide.

Tourist record

A record 25.7 million foreign tourists visited Britain last year, spending £12.74 billion. The number from the US and Canada rose 12 per cent, compensating for a 1 per cent fall in those from the Continent, said the National Office of Statistics.

Laid to rest

A "silent" road surface costing £2.6 million is to be put on the M65 between Burnley and Huncoat, Lancashire, to protect owls. Conservationists said that owls hunted by listening to the movement of prey and traffic noise was driving them away.

Wild at art

A painting by an elephant fetched £500 at a Sotheby's auction. The work, described as abstract, was painted by an elephant at an animal hospital in Thailand after it was given a brush by a visiting artist. The proceeds will go to charity.

Staff at the British Library are fighting new rotas

Strike may shut British Library

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

BOOK delivery staff at the British Library have voted for a strike which would force the closure of its reading rooms, only 18 months after the much-delayed opening.

About 100 of the 120 staff who work in the storerooms of the £511 million building supported the strike plan, which is in protest at pay, a new rota system and working conditions which they say are unhealthy. The library will be closed from March 1 for at least a week unless an agreement is reached.

Staff say that the basement storerooms, four floors below ground, have health and safety problems: they have complained about noise, extremes of temperature, lack of natural light and ladders with missing steps which they have to climb to reach high shelves.

"There is also concern about people getting migraines," said one worker, who claimed that an internal health and safety report found 37 recommendations for improvement.

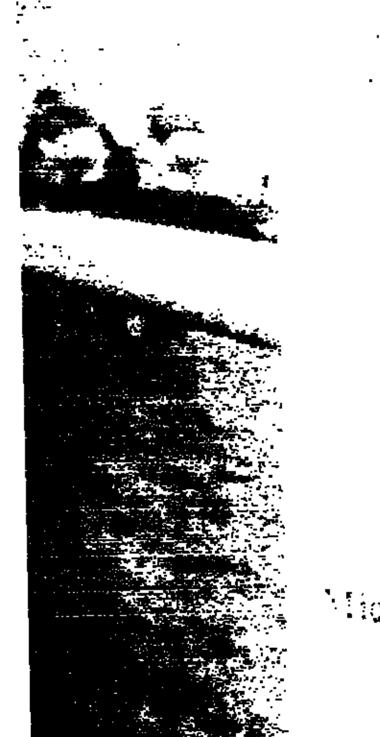
Staff are also unhappy with plans to reorganise their working hours, which will introduce a series of shifts and rotas so that not all are working at the same time. The management wants to rotate staff between the building's levels so that they do not spend their entire day on the lowest floors. The changes would also allow the library to extend the reading rooms' opening hours, which are fewer than on the former site in Bloomsbury.

Workers say that 45 book deliverers will lose £1,000 from their £13,900 salary because of the changes: 64 will remain at that rate.

John Sheldon, joint general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union, which represents 250,000 civil servants including the library's clerical and managerial staff, said: "The plans will damage the quality of services to library users and could put the collection at risk."

The library said that the pay of book delivery staff, who are not trained professional librarians, could rise with overtime to £15,500 and that more than half the staff would be upgraded to higher salaries.

Brian Lang, director of the British Library, said: "I do hope we can resolve this. We would have no choice but to close. Our readers deserve better."



Jeans left to rebels without a clue

By Alex O'Connell

JEANS, once the uniform of youth, are now a badge of middle-age — and the big shots at London Fashion Week show that among the truly fashionable, denim is dead.

As Levi Strauss announced plans to close half its US factories and lay off 6,000 workers because of a sales slump, the only jeans-wearers at the shows were overweight techies and forty-something men with balding heads and bulging back pockets.

The trousers popularised in the 1950s by icons such as James Dean are now slipping down the backsides of the middle-aged. Karl Templer, a 29-year-old stylist whose shows this week included Calvin Klein Men, Nicole Farhi and Hugo Boss, said: "Jeans are just standard now. Your parents wear them and they are not rebellious. They are deeply conservative"



Jeans: abandoned in favour of "combats"

Marian Scrutton, a co-owner of the West London restaurants Circus and Avenue, who prepared food for the fashion crowd, decided that her staff at the makeshift restaurant in front of the Natural History Museum would wear blue combat pants instead of jeans. "They are trendy, practical and you can put things in pockets. And they are more comfortable than jeans," she said.

Nicole Farhi, whose collection was shown yesterday, has used fabrics such as wool sprinkled with flecks of iron and wood instead of denim. "We are pushing a softer look in sportswear this season. We have only one jean," said Farhi, whose sells them at £69.

Des'ree, winner of the best female singer award at this year's Brits, said that "Levi's jackets are great", but that the legs of the jeans "are either too short or too long".

Stephen Marks, chairman of Group plc, which includes the French Connection label, squeezed into a pair of tight, dark-blue jeans, which he wore with a smart jacket to Farhi's show — but he admitted that he was no trendsetter.

"Combat trousers are getting stronger and stronger — we are selling more of these legs than ever, in stretch and with zips," Mr Marks said.

The All Saints singer Natalie Appleton said that her band preferred outsized trousers: "We like to feel comfortable and wear what we can dance and travel in. Nicole [Appleton] and I spent our teenage years in the States and so we are both very influenced by American skate fashion." But Jeremy Clarkson, the 38-year-old Top Gear presenter, who might be considered an example of the sort of man who thinks that youth can be found in a pair of denims, said: "I will continue to wear them until I die because I'd look idiotic in combats.

"Jeans are for middle-aged people now and the job of the young is to rebel against their parents' fashions in the same way that I wore jeans because my father wore slacks."

Anna Wintour, the Editor of American *Vogue*, said: "Jean Paul Gaultier used denim with feathers in his collection this year. Jeans are not better or worse than other trousers. They are still a classic."

Jean-machine, page 19







No nylon trousers here: a wearable look, with ideas and fabrics drawn from the past, was offered by the Paul Smith for Women collection, shown in a hotel

What ho! Style is so jolly English, after all

Lisa Armstrong reports on the traditional inspiration at London Fashion Week

TV's Wooster, Hugh Laurie: plus-fours and Argyll knits

FASHION may like to think of itself as international, but Englishness is rapidly emerging as a theme of London Fashion Week. Paul Smith, one of Britain's most successful designers, kicked off a packed day yesterday in the sedate surroundings of The Basil Street Hotel with clothes inspired by the likes of the Bloomsbury Set and Bertie Wooster.

Modish fashion editors are wearing nylon trousers and Prada sports-inspired footwear this season, but at Paul Smith the sporting choice was tweeds the colour of grouse, delicate chinoiserie that wound its way round the hems, pockets and belts of silk tunic dresses, and slim-cut aubergine sheepskins layered over trouser suits.

Bertie Wooster was evident in the elongated Loden-coloured plus-fours and Argyll knits that were reworked as dresses; the Bloomsbury Set was evident in the painted velvets that were inspired by the artist Sonia Delaunay. Smith, who made his name with men's clothes, is now finding his stride with womenswear: this was an appealing collection with plenty of wearable pieces.

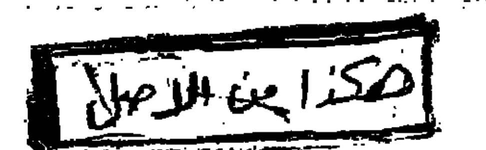
Nicole Farhi also had plenty of desirable pieces, including sturdy looking leather boots and blonde sheepskins, which had been combed to look like Mongolian trim. Farhi, who is set to open a huge store in Manhattan later this spring, is slowly but surely carving a bigger international profile for herself.

The Oscar-nominated actress Cate Blanchett was at the show in one of those blonde sheepskins, and enthused about the collection to all and sundry afterwards. Of course, it helps that she is currently rehearsing *Plenty*, the haunting play by Farhi's husband David Hare.

Deborah Milner, a graduate of the Royal College of Art, did not do wearable in her first catwalk collection yesterday. The silver dresses and skirts that twisted round the body, framing it with triangles that jutted out from the hips like sharks' fins, were an academic exercise in technique - of which Milner, 34, has plenty. Using "strictly synthetic" fabrics and some bronze that she melted on her gas fire in Battersea, she painted an ethereal picture.

That she can do more accessible pieces has been proved by the popularity of her made-to-measure wedding gowns, as worn by the likes of Annabel Heseltine. This was her chance to show her experimental side - and she ran with it.

"Is that open seam a styling tic or accidental?" asked one observer of a shark's fin dress. Vidal Sassoon, a sponsor of London Fashion Week, was less equivocal in his praise. "It's Frank Gerhey for clothes," he said. Grey may come and go, but architecture never falls out of fashion.



THE € DEBATE

Hague accuses 'foolish' Blair of ditching pound

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE COMMONS

WILLIAM HAGUE accused Tony Blair of using the National Changeover Plan to bounce Britain into joining a single *European currency* as MPs debated the Prime Minister's statement.

The Tory leader said it was "a long list of clichés and verbiage" accompanied by little information. He mocked Mr Blair for an article "My love for the Pound" which he wrote for *The Sun* before the general election.

"Hasn't it been a remarkably short journey from this love of the pound to the plan you announced today to adopt the euro and abolish the pound?" he asked.

Mr Hague said: "While [Mr Blair] trumpets his love for the pound, it is his love for the euro which is the love that dare not speak its name."

He told the Prime Minister: "Isn't it the case that you have today committed the country to a course of action that is unnecessary, expensive and time-consuming, and for which the British voters have never given their consent?"

He added: "Isn't it foolish to embark on a changeover plan without the faintest idea how the necessary convergence of the economies is to be achieved?"

Mr Hague declared: "Instead of giving people the choice, your National Changeover Plan is part of a national handover plan, to hand over the economic and political freedoms of this country."

> 'It is a handover plan, to hand over the economic and political freedoms of this country'

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the *Government had "crossed the* Rubicon". "I greatly welcome that, even though the Government has crossed the Rubicon *by the tiniest millimetre, and* even though the Government tries to pretend it has not *crossed the Rubicon.*" *He in*sisted: "Unless the Government is prepared to come forward now and argue the case *for the euro, then it risks* this decision, the most important facing the UK, being lost by stealth. Now the Government is going to have to defend its own position — something it has not done before."

Kenneth Clarke, the former Tory Chancellor, told the Prime Minister: "I welcome the marked change of tone which today's statement represents. I particularly welcome *the fact that you have reached* agreement with the representatives of the majority of British business on the practical steps *that are now to be taken to* give some reality to your policy of 'prepare and decide'."

He added: "Would you undertake that you will from now on continue to put your mouth where you actually think our money ought to be?"

Giles Radice (Lab, Durham N), chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, urged: "The time has now come for a great national debate to inform the British people about the euro and the British Government must lead that debate."

Sir Edward Heath, the former Tory Prime Minister, told Mr Blair: "You have been absolutely right in everything which you have said this afternoon. I welcome that." He *urged the Prime Minister to* carry out the preparations as "speedily as possible".

Mocking his front bench's "*pseudo arguments*" *against* the euro, he insisted: "The fact is that all of these are dominated by one thing, economically throughout the world in its history. There is no single market *in the world which has more* than one currency and that is our position today — we cannot carry on successfully in a single market if we go for multiple currencies."

Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield), the former Cabinet Minister, asked Mr Blair: "Will you make clear that when the information published by the Government goes out, every elector is told that if Britain is a member of the single currency, they will lose the right to elect or to remove on polling day those who make the economic decisions that affect our lives?"

Michael Heseltine (C, Henley), the former Deputy *Prime Minister, said the* changeover plan would be "widely welcomed" and marked a "step forward in the *Government's intention to join* the single currency". He also urged Mr Blair to create and lead an all-party group pushing for entry to the euro.

Ian Taylor (C, Esher and Walton), a former Tory minister, also welcomed the plan and added: "Anyone who opposes the national changeover plan must in fact wish not to have a referendum because the referendum can only come if the British people have prepared."

Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) spoke of the failures of Europe's common agricultural and fisheries policies and warned Mr Blair: "Beware of those carrying out experiments in genetically modified currencies."

John Taylor (UUP, *Strangford) warned that the* euro was politically driven and would lead to a United States of Europe. "The Prime *Minister's statement could be* the beginning of the end of the United Kingdom," he said.



Tony Blair announcing the details of the National Changeover Plan for joining the European single currency in the House of Commons yesterday

'Not a change of policy, but change of gear'

BLAIR'S STATEMENT

THIS is an edited version of the Prime Minister's statement to the Commons:

"On 27 October, 1997 the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would publish details of how, should it choose to do so, Britain could join the euro. Today we publish an outline of [the National Changeover Plan] as a basis for consultation.

"[The Chancellor] said that in principle the Government was in favour of Britain joining a successful single currency. And he set out the conditions necessary to satisfy our national economic interest.

"It is conditional. It is not inevitable. Both intention and conditions are genuine. This is the right course for the country, to resolve this issue for the British national interest, the future of our people and their well-being. And it is that national interest that will always come first.

"I do not dismiss the constitutional *or political issues. They are real.* Monetary union is a big step of integration. But so was the Single European Act. And the EU itself.

"*And if joining a single currency is* good for British jobs and British industry, if it enhances British power and British influence, I believe it is right for Britain to overcome these constitutional and political arguments and the fears behind them.

"For the very reason of the sensitivity of these arguments, we have also said clearly: the Government can recommend. But the people will decide in a referendum."

Mr Blair continued: "What we announce today, therefore, is not a change of policy. It is a change of gear.

"The euro is a reality. It exists. Eleven out of 15 other EU members are in it. It represents 20 per cent of world income, as big as the US. It will be the currency of 290 million people.

"Fifty per cent of our trade now is with the eurozone. The launch of the euro means already that an increasing number of UK firms are starting to use *the euro, not just big business like* British Steel or Ford or Philips or ICI and Unilever."

Mr Blair added: "The public sector *will give a clear sign of its commit*ment to prepare. Each department now has a minister responsible for euro preparations. Where computer systems are being upgraded, all departments will build in euro compatibility where that represents value for money. In the case of the DSS, the Inland Revenue and Customs, the scale and complexity of their computer systems make advance preparations critical.

"They may need to spend some money prior to a referendum to make their IT systems euro-compatible ... such expenditure ... will amount to some tens of millions of pounds spread over a number of years.

"Overall, we believe it should be possible to move in four months from a Government decision to a referendum; in 24-30 months from a positive referendum result to the introduction of notes and coins; and a further six months before sterling notes and coins are withdrawn.

"This means that the whole process from a positive referendum result to *the withdrawal of sterling could be* completed in around three years, considerably faster than the period required for the first wave of EMU *participants.*

Mr Blair went on: "It is worth summarising the economic tests the Chancellor set out: sustainable convergence between the UK and countries within the euro-zone; flexibility to adapt to change in the UK and in continental Europe; the impact on investment and the UK financial services industry; and whether joining the single currency would be good for employment.

"Three points should be emphasised. The first is that economic convergence must be not momentary but, as far as we can accurately foresee, sustainable. We cannot say that yet.

"The second point is that these are early days for the euro itself. It is sensible to see how it settles down and how the ECB steers a path consistent with both strong economic discipline and the avoidance of deflation.

"And third, it will take some time to make a clear judgment about whether the direction of economic reform in Europe will enable us to meet the tests, particularly on flexibility and jobs.

"The *single* currency *alone* won't make Europe prosperous. The single currency plus fundamental reform in labour, capital and product markets *and in our welfare systems, can do so.*

"Madam Speaker, I commend this statement to the House."



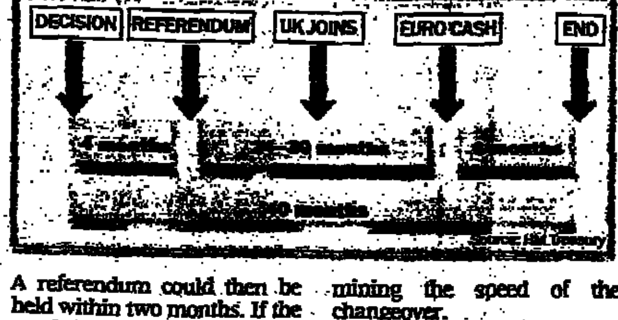
THE € DEBATE



Britain could switch to euro in 40 months

THE PLAN

By Jill Sherman and Roland Watson



BRITISH notes and coins could be replaced by the euro in less than 40 months from a Cabinet decision that the UK should join a single currency.

The Government's National Changeover Plan shows that Tony Blair aims to speed up the process so that the UK can prepare more quickly than first-wave entrants managed.

While Treasury sources were making clear that no decision would be made till after the next election, the document gives business the green light to speed up its preparations. A decision could be made as early as late 2001, with Britain possibly joining economic and monetary union by 2003.

The Government's blueprint for change suggests that it would take four months from the time the Cabinet decided the conditions were right to enter the euro for a referendum to be held.

This would depend on how quickly business managers could push through a referendum Bill — which was done within four months for the Scottish and Welsh plebiscites.

A referendum could then be held within two months. If the result was positive it would be put to Parliament in a comprehensive Bill, which could take a year to get through.

Before the UK could join, the European Commission and the European Central Bank would need to report to the European Council on whether the UK had met convergence criteria.

The document is imprecise over when Britain would technically join the single currency. It argues that the timing would depend on whether different sectors of the economy were ready, particularly the banks and revenue departments.

It argues that the amount of pre-planning and practical work that takes place from now would be crucial in determining the speed of the changeover.

Some high-street banks could take up to three years to prepare while the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise could take between 12 to 18 months and financial markets would need to prepare for about 12 months.

But it would be retailers, utilities, public-sector services and organisations involved in producing and distributing euro notes and coins which would dictate when the currency could be introduced. The Royal Mint would require up to 30 months to provide sufficient coins.

"Provided detailed planning is taken forward now, this period could be completed within 24 to 30 months," the document suggests. It adds that the final period to the day when sterling is withdrawn from circulation would be up to six months, in line with advice from the Business Advisory Group — but could be as short as two.

The paper admits that further work with the banks and revenue departments would be necessary for a more precise timetable.

It suggests that a lot can be learned from the timetable of the first wave of single-currency entrants. It points out that member countries decided to go ahead in May 1998 and it will take a further 50 months before the euro is adopted fully. Britain could do it at least ten months quicker, the Government says.

Leading article, page 21



All change for the pound: shoppers and traders in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, tried out the euro last November

Telltale signs confirm it is when, not if

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The medium was the message. Sometimes what matters is who says something and how they say it, as much as what they say. The real significance of yesterday's announcement about the National Changeover Plan was that it was made by Tony Blair — and the carefully-crafted formal statement revealed less than the tone of his replies to MPs' questions.

As Paddy Ashdown and other prominent pro-Europeans pointed out, Mr Blair signalled a major step forward. It was more than what Mr Blair called "a change of gear", if not perhaps the crossing of the Rubicon claimed by Mr Ashdown. Mr Blair is now planning on the basis of the euro succeeding and Britain joining. The formal policy may still be "prepare and decide", but, in practice, it is "prepare and enter provided, or rather when, economic conditions are right". And the latter conditions are largely in the eye of the beholder, though Mr Blair underlined continuing British worries over the need for further reform in European labour, capital and product markets — "a new social model for a new European reality".

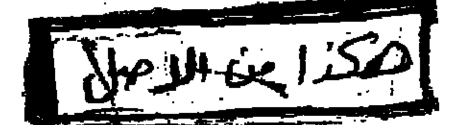
Yet there is now no doubt about where either Mr Blair or William Hague stands on the central political question facing Britain. The caveats are still there, reflecting the natural desire of any leader not to box himself in. But the battle lines are clear. Mr Hague underlined his fundamental opposition in principle to joining a single currency, echoing Hugh Gaitskell's famous, or infamous, reference in 1962 to a thousand years of history. But Tory divisions have seldom been greater with Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, David Curry and Ian Taylor sitting together like a party within a party.

Mr Hague was right that the Government is trying to create a step-by-step process whereby membership is seen as inevitable in the referendum because the euro has become an accepted part of life. That will be hard for the Tories to fight.

Yesterday's plan is intended to convince business of the seriousness of government preparations. Whitehall departments will spend "tens of millions" which will be authorised in the next few months. However, the Government has still not named a target date, so a degree of uncertainty remains. While Mr Blair shifted policy, several big questions remain unanswered. First, as Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, told MPs yesterday morning, monetary policy is not aimed at assisting entry into the euro. Talk of shadowing the euro is officially denied: instead, the aim is to "demonstrate delivering stability, including the exchange rate". The intention to pursue convergence will have to be more explicit.

Second, Mr Blair said: "We want to keep open the option of making a decision early in the next Parliament to join." The Blair camp claims that this could mean retaining the current formal approach in an election campaign. But Robin Cook is not alone in believing that the Government will have to declare its hand over a central issue of the campaign.

Third, and most important, will the Government take the lead in what is in effect a three-year referendum campaign? Mr Ashdown argued that leadership by stealth cannot continue. As Mr Heseltine urged, Mr Blair has to take a lead in what will be a cross-party campaign. Yesterday, he picked up the euro standard, even if he is not yet waving it.



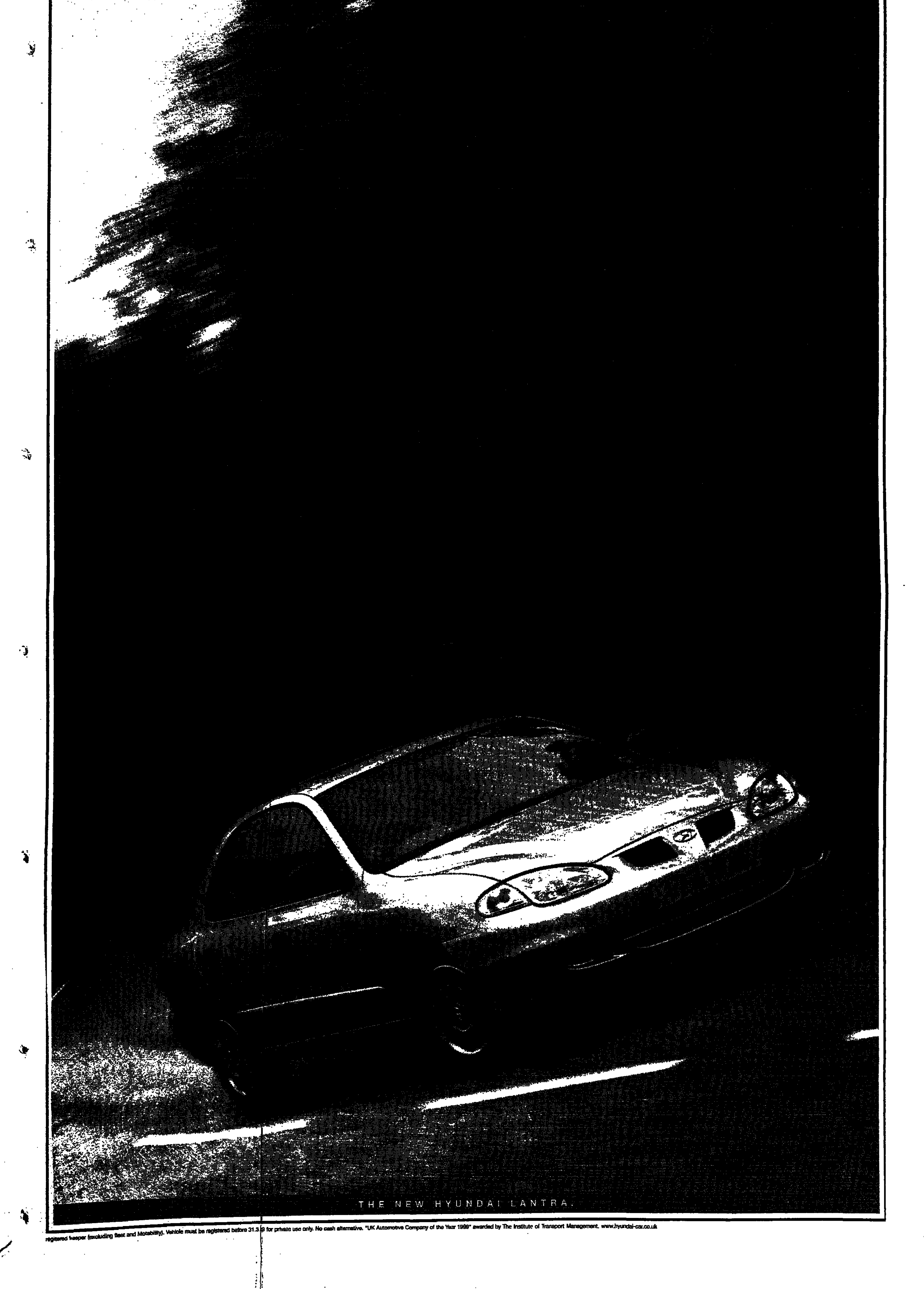
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Serb death shows reality of ceasefire

Peace talks give Kosovo village a taste of war, Anthony Loyd in Bukos writes

BUKOS is a pimple of a village that does not even appear on the map. Yet, while international mediators in Rambouillet agonised over how best to window-dress deadlock to the waiting world, the war visited its 800 inhabitants.

The skirmish there was barely significant, even by the standards of Kosovo's low-intensity conflict. Doubtless the handful of casualties would have been little more than statistics on an official release were it not for the presence of the media.

Kosovo, technically, slumbers under a ceasefire that is supposed to last for the duration of Rambouillet's negotiations. On Monday morning, however, a Serb offensive west of Vucitrn, about 21 miles north of Pristina, displaced more than 4,000 refugees in four hours of fighting.

The same night, Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas came down from the snow-covered slopes and fired on Serb houses in Bukos, two miles to the south. One Serb civilian was killed and two others seriously wounded. Early yesterday, the mixed Serb-Albanian village filled with Serb police who escorted a team of investigators to the dead man's house while a small Yugoslav Army unit, backed by a tank and mortar crew, took up positions on the slopes to the south.

The KLA held positions to the west, north and east. They dropped a mortar round into the yard of the dead man's house as the Serb investigators entered. It wounded five policemen and a press photographer.

The police called up army reinforcements and in the lull that preceded their arrival, we drove to the KLA line at the northern edge of the village. The fighters were tense and uncommunicative, but as convinced of the justice of their cause as their Serb opponents.



The Serbs had their tank, two anti-aircraft Pragas, and dozens of infantrymen. More to the point, as a journalist had already been wounded in their company, they had dropped their usual hostility towards the media, and invited the press to accompany them on their mission.

The infantry moved forward with the tank, and chaos descended in about two seconds. The sky and fields resounded with whistles, buzzes, cracks and thumps. Everyone appeared to be rolling around in the snow and mud. Our Land Rover picked its moment to slide gently off the track, sinking up to its axles in half-frozen slime.

We cursed and sweated and pushed, to no avail, as the bedlam continued. About 20 minutes later the shooting had stopped and I was smoking a Lucky Strike with a Serb officer. "So who is guilty today then, comrade, the Albanians or us?" he asked.

Around him, troops were regrouping in the good-natured mood that follows victory. The KLA, true to form, had fallen away from the slopes.

Bukos, in its entry to war, a tiny place on an average day, had its anonymity lifted by one dead and several wounded Serbs, together with an unknown number of guerrilla casualties. And that was during a ceasefire.



BELA SZANDELSZKY / EPA

A Serb woman, whose husband was killedoutside their house in Bukos, carries her belongings, including a rifle and shotgun, from the building yesterday

Escape route mined

Pristina: Yugoslav Army engineers have placed explosives on a key bridge on the main highway connecting Kosovo's capital, Pristina, with the Macedonian border, according to a monitor with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe yesterday.

He said he witnessed about 20 army engineers burying a command cable of the sort that would be used to detonate explosive charges. The cable ran from a hut that was being fortified on the Pristina side of the bridge to the span itself.

An American diplomat with long experience in Yugoslavia said he understood the bridge was mined. "We have been reliably informed that the bridge is mined and could be blown at any time," he said.

A Western diplomat in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia said: "The Yugoslav Army wouldn't be a match for Nato but they would use every means to frustrate an attack, including blowing up bridges and tunnels that Nato forces would want to use to enter Kosovo."

The bridge wired for detonation would be the main escape route for monitors. *(Reuters)*



British troops on hold during talks stalemate

BY TOM WALKER IN RAMBOUILLET AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Rambouillet peace talks on Kosovo passed the final deadline without a deal yesterday, with neither Albanians nor Serbs signing anything.

Contact Group ministers claimed, however, that there had been an historic breakthrough. A new constitution for Kosovo appeared to have been agreed, but Belgrade was still a long way from accepting a Nato force on its territory.

It was agreed that the talks should continue on Monday, March 15, at the Normandy town of Evreux. James Rubin, the US State Department spokesman, said the interval would give the Albanians time to consult their people, while the Serbs would have to bring themselves to accept that international troops were an inevitable consequence of any peace deal.

Last night, the planned deployment of 2,000 British troops in Skopje, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was postponed, following the announcement in Rambouillet. Troops from the proposed leading British armoured battle group, based on the King's Royal Hussars, had been due to arrive in the region by the end of this week to prepare for immediate deployment into Kosovo once a peace deal was signed.

However, with the inconclusive result of the talks, Operation Agricola, the British codename for the planned Kosovo mission, has been "put on hold". Only hours before the announcement that another meeting had been fixed, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that the 2,000 British troops would be arriving in the Greek port of Salonika and in Skopje by the end of the week.

However, after hasty meetings at the Ministry of Defence, the deployments were shelved. The troops involved, all based at Osnabrück and Münster in northern Germany, will continue to make preparations for a Kosovo mission, but without any firm guarantee that approval will be given. The first batch of tanks and armoured combat vehicles is due to arrive at Salonika on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ferry, *Sea Centurion*, tomorrow.

The reputation of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, has taken a beating over the past few days, as her efforts to secure an Albanian signature to at least half the peace plan were consistently thwarted by Hashim Thaci, the 29-year-old Kosovo Liberation Army leader. However, she said last night: "We have decisively broken the stalemate that hung over Kosovo for so long."

Airstrikes were also off the agenda. Mrs Albright spoke only of "disincentives" towards Serb security forces, and warned the KLA not to provoke any incidents while a settlement was possible.

Diplomatic sources in Belgrade said that a new United Nations force was being considered to implement a peace plan. Some even suggested that the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) could be asked to head a force, even though it has no military apparatus.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, lost his temper after a string of questions about the peace force and said British troops would only be committed to Kosovo under Nato leadership. The Americans said they would also only contribute troops if they were Nato-led.

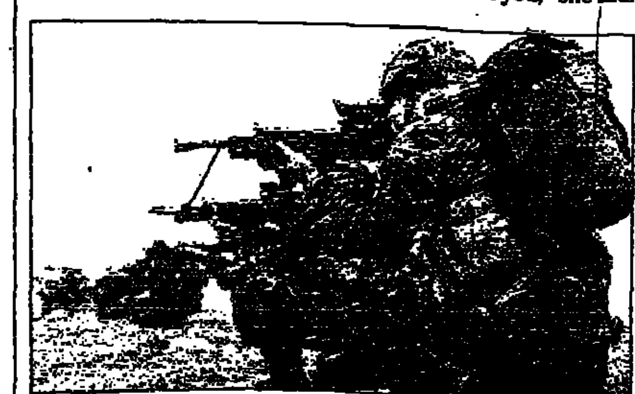


British Nato troops train in the snow in Skopje

Mr Cook said: "We want a tried and trusted command structure." He added that he hoped Russian troops would join, making the force more palatable to Belgrade.

Hubert Védrine, the French Foreign Minister, denied that the Albanians had persuaded the Rambouillet mediators to include a referendum in the constitution, which would provide a clear route to independence after three years.

Mrs Albright denied the Kosovo Albanians had been cheated by Rambouillet. "Do not despair, support those of your leaders who have supported peace, and America will stand with you," she said.



Firing practice continues for the Nato Extraction Force in Macedonia yesterday as talks stall

Turkey seeks death penalty for Ocalan

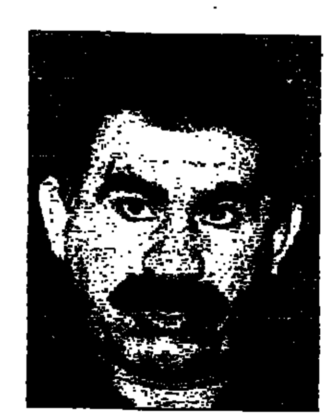
FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ISTANBUL

JUST over a week after his capture by Turkish special forces in Nairobi, Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader, yesterday made his first appearance before Turkish judges on charges of treason.

Turkish prosecutors said they would seek the death penalty, which has not been applied in Turkey since 1984. The hearing, on the prison island of Imrali, in the Sea of Marmara, was closed to the press and public. No date was set for the trial, which will be conducted by a special session of the Ankara State Security Court.

However, officials said it would almost certainly begin next month in the run-up to the Turkish general election in April. A high security courtroom is being constructed on the island which officials said was "along the lines of courtrooms in Italy for Mafia trials", with a special bulletproof dock for Mr Ocalan.

Yesterday's hearing on Imrali was attended by Osman Baydemir, one of fifteen lawyers from the Turkish Human Rights Association who have volunteered to defend Mr Ocalan. Dutch and Italian lawyers claiming to represent the Kurdish leader have been refused entry to Turkey. Onlookers spat and yelled abuse at Mr Baydemir as he boarded a boat for Imrali. He expressed concern that Mr Ocalan's interrogation had been conducted without a lawyer present.


Ocalan: press banned from court appearance

Details of the interrogation have been released by the newspaper *Hurriyet*, which yesterday said that Mr Ocalan had pleaded for his life, telling his questioners he was "full of remorse". "Please don't hang me," it quoted him as saying. "I will tell you everything."

Mr Ocalan, held responsible by Turkey for the deaths of 30,000 people during the 15-year Kurdish insurgency, is said to suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure as well as a heart complaint.

On Monday European Union foreign ministers called for "fair and correct treatment" of Mr Ocalan and an "open trial according to the rule of law before an independent court, with access to legal counsel of his choice and with international observers admitted".

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said that "the EU's idea of sending observers is not acceptable". But officials added that the court might allow "monitors" to be present.

According to *Hurriyet*, Mr Ocalan has admitted that his guerrillas fighting against Turkish rule in southeastern Turkey had received "rockets and other weapons" from Greece. Mr Ocalan also reportedly said that Greece had given training at Kurdish Workers' Party camps on Greek soil "for years" and had provided him with a passport in the name of a Greek Cypriot.

President Demirel said that Greece was a "rogue state" and that if it continued its "illegal actions" Turkey retained the right "to take necessary precautions in self defence".

Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, said Greece had been "playing with fire".

☐ **Athens:** Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, yesterday called for a parliamentary investigation into the still-vague circumstances in which Mr Ocalan was abducted by Turkey from what was believed to be Greek diplomatic shelter (John Carr writes).

"We must separate our internal criticisms from national policy," Mr Simitis said after a Cabinet meeting called to discuss rapidly worsening Greek-Turkish relations in the aftermath of the capture.

Columnist sparks anti-Times tirade

Istanbul: Turkish papers urged their readers yesterday to "inundate" *The Times* with faxes, letters and e-mail to protest against a column in which Simon Jenkins, the former Editor of *The Times*, ironically urged the West to "bomb Turkey" (Richard Owen writes).

"Many Turks appear not to have understood that Mr Jenkins meant not that we should bomb Turkey but exactly the opposite," one Western diplomat said. "It seems that irony does not translate."

Sabah and *Hurriyet* both published the telephone, fax and e-mail numbers of *The Times*. In his column last Friday Mr Jenkins wrote that the British and US Governments were too ready to use bombs. "Bomb Turkey now," he began. "Flatten Ankara. Tomahawk the Bosphorus. If we can bomb Serbia for the Kosovans and bomb President Saddam Hussein for the Iraqi Kurds, we can surely bomb Turkey for their mountain brothers."

Sabah did not explain that Mr Jenkins was condemning such attitudes, or quote his observation that where "Britain used to send humanitarian aid to troublespots, it now sends explosives".

Simon Jenkins, page 20
Letters, page 21

AVIHO SHAPIRA, AFP

One of the five Israeli soldiers wounded in yesterday's ambush in southern Lebanon

Hezbollah kills three Israelis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday demanded that Syria put an end to Hezbollah attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. The call came hours after three members of an Israeli commando unit were killed in a gun battle and five more injured.

The attack was the most serious in Lebanon this year and the biggest loss of Israeli life there since September 1997, when 12 Israeli commandos were killed. It has placed Israel's future in Lebanon high on the agenda of all parties for the Israeli general election on May 17.

The shootout took place near the village of Meidoun, just north of the buffer zone that Israel has occupied in southern Lebanon since 1985, as the Israelis were on their way to attack Hezbollah (Party of God) targets and were ambushed. Mr Netanyahu, who had a friend among the injured, said: "It is clear that if Syria wanted to stop these attacks it has the power to do so. We expect them to curtail aggression against Israel."

Israel retaliated with artillery shells and its warplanes fired four missiles after helicopters had strafed the area.

A statement from Hezbollah, which is armed and financed by Iran with the connivance of Syria, said its fighters intercepted the commandos as they were trying to cross into unoccupied Lebanon. It said the guerrillas had suffered no casualties.

CIA accused of inciting coup in Iraq

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN spies planted on a United Nations inspection team in Iraq may have had a hand in a failed military rebellion against Saddam Hussein, according to Scott Ritter, the former UN weapons monitor.

The former US Marine intelligence officer who ran the UN's most sensitive missions inside Iraq before resigning in disgust at Western policy says in a book that the CIA began sending agents on UN inspections at the start of 1992, a year after the end of the Gulf War.

The CIA role reached a climax with the presence of nine "CIA paramilitary covert operatives" on a UN inspection in June 1996 which coincided with a coup attempt by members of the same Special Republican Guard units that the UN team was investigating.

Iraqi opposition sources said the coup attempt was planned by a CIA-backed group known as the Iraqi National Accord, which smuggled in CIA communications equipment from Jordan. Iraqi intelligence arrested two Republican Guard officers involved and contacted the CIA on its own radio to announce that it had uncovered the plot.

The revelations are contained in galleys of Mr Ritter's forthcoming book, *Endgame*, leaked to *The New York Times* in an apparent response to a Pentagon demand that the author submit the manuscript for security clearance.

Iraq has always complained that the UN Special Commission (Unscom), set up after the war to eliminate Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, was packed with American spies. The Iraqi Government once even expelled all the American inspectors after denouncing Mr Ritter as a spy, a charge he denies. US officials continue to insist, however, that Unscom acted as an independent technical agency in pursuit of goals set by the UN Security Council.

In the book Mr Ritter says that he and a CIA official, referred to as "Moe Dobbs", worked together "to plan the operational and intelligence support for the largest and most complex inspections undertaken by Unscom."

The CIA sent its largest contingent on the June 1996 mission to search compounds where elite troops were suspected of hiding evidence of Iraq's clandestine programmes to build chemical and biological weaponry. A stand-off developed when Iraq blocked the inspection, bringing swift condemnation from the Security Council. That very month, Iraqi dissidents staged an unsuccessful coup attempt.

"There was no proof of Dobbs' involvement, but there was a strong set of coincidences," Mr Ritter writes.

☐ **Fresh attacks:** In a third consecutive day of attacks yesterday, American F15E planes dropped 2,000lb "bunker buster" bombs on a military site in northern Iraq after they were targeted by anti-aircraft fire, the Pentagon said. In a second incident, other F15s attacked a multiple-launch rocket system near the city of Mosul. Baghdad said that one Iraqi was injured. *(Reuters)*

Beirut: The US could be implicated in the killing of Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Sadiq al-Sader, a top Shia Muslim cleric in Iraq, it was claimed. Muhammad al-Sahhaf, Iraq's Foreign Minister, said the US was trying to finance insurrection in his country. *(AFP)*


Ritter: resigned UN job in disgust over policy

US governors back Bush for president

Top Republicans lend support as favourite warms to the task, Ian Brodie writes

IN AN unusually early show of support, at least half of America's Republican state governors are ready to endorse the White House ambitions of George W. Bush.

Their backing emerged in Washington yesterday as word spread on the political grapevine that Mr Bush, Governor of Texas and son of the former President, was preparing to take his first official step towards running for President. He is expected to announce the formation of an exploratory committee within three weeks.

At the same time, Pete Wilson, the former Governor of California, confirmed that he would not be entering the Republican presidential primaries, having concluded that Mr Bush has gained so much momentum that his early lead in several key polls is insurmountable. With Mr Bush already competing for the attention of big donors, Mr Wilson realised he would be unable to raise the $25 million (£15.4 million) needed to run a credible campaign.

Mr Bush has conceded that he is "warming to the task" of trying to win back the White House that his father lost to Bill Clinton in 1992. Tim McGough, a Massachusetts politician, said that Mr Bush told him of his plans for the exploratory committee in a call last week and said: "I have a feeling of calm inside myself."

Earlier concerns that Mr Bush might not run out of consideration for the impact on his wife and teenage twin daughters are fading. They are now expected to support his candidacy.

On the crucial money front, Mr Bush has begun privately assembling a team to raise $25 million with phone calls and meetings in Austin, the Texas state capital, and Washington. He has seen investment bankers from California, East Coast property tycoons and wealthy Texas oil men. Contributors to past campaigns of the elder Bush are being recruited for his son.

Opinion polls show Mr Bush to be the leading contender for the Republican nomination, but nipping at his heels is Elizabeth Dole, wife of Bob Dole who lost to Mr Clinton in 1996. She has resigned as president of the American Red Cross to give serious thought to running.

Both Mr Bush and Mrs Dole beat Al Gore, the likely Democratic candidate, in pollsters' mythical match-ups. The support for Mr Bush by as many as 16 of America's 31 Republican governors was seen as unprecedented for a non-incumbent White House hopeful who has yet to declare officially. Their ranks grew during the three-day winter meeting of the nation's governors in Washington.

"Nobody wants to be left behind," said John Rowland, Governor of Connecticut. Marc Ricicot, Governor of Montana, said: "They like him, they trust him and they think he can win." Frank Keating, Governor of Oklahoma, said: "He's done an excellent job as Governor. He appeals to a cross-section of the people. And I really think Texas represents the rest of the country."

Mr Bush's popularity in Texas was proved last November when he was re-elected in a landslide. He enjoys the nickname of "Dubbya" from his middle initial, spoken in a Texan twang. He has already developed a thick skin for questions about his personal life, especially his wilder, younger days. He talks openly about his inability to handle alcohol which he swore off 12 years ago when he was 40. He refuses to answer questions about possible drug use in his youth.

Mr Bush had a chance to size up the White House for the first time since his father departed during a dinner that Mr Clinton gave for the governors. He also clashed with the President during a discussion by opposing an Administration plan to tie federal education aid to school performance. While agreeing with Mr Clinton's goals for better schools and teachers, Mr Bush demanded flexibility in the way funds from Washington are spent.

"The federal Government should be a limited partner. If they feel like sending money to the states, fine, but don't tell us how to run things," he said.

Fellow governors backing Mr Bush include moderates and conservatives, including his brother Jeb who is Governor of Florida. George Bush Sr, living in retirement in Houston, is urging his son to run.

LINKS

http://www.bush98.com/Biographies/george.html — biography
http://www.nga.org/Governor/deftexas.htm — more biographical details
http://www.bush98.com/initiatives/init.html — policies
http://www.bush98com/CampaignNews/campnews.html — campaign news

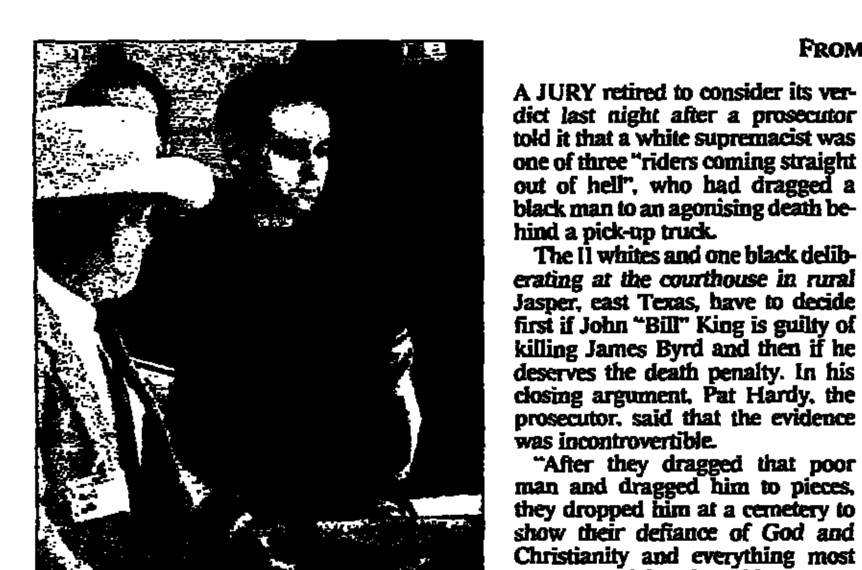
WIN McNAMEE / REUTERS



George W. Bush says that, after early doubts, he views with growing enthusiasm the task of trying to win back the White House his father lost to Bill Clinton

Texas awaits verdict on 'rider from hell'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON



John "Bill" King is escorted from court after giving evidence earlier this week

A JURY retired to consider its verdict last night after a prosecutor told it that a white supremacist was one of three "riders coming straight out of hell", who had dragged a black man to an agonising death behind a pick-up truck.

The 11 whites and one black deliberating at the courthouse in rural Jasper, east Texas, have to decide first if John "Bill" King is guilty of killing James Byrd and then if he deserves the death penalty. In his closing argument, Pat Hardy, the prosecutor, said that the evidence was incontrovertible.

"After they dragged that poor man and dragged him to pieces, they dropped him at a cemetery to show their defiance of God and Christianity and everything most people stand for," he said.

Under Texas law, Mr King would receive a lethal injection, rather than a life sentence, only if he was found to have murdered his victim while committing another crime. Prosecutors have been pushing hard to show that Mr Byrd was being kidnapped when the murder took place.

In a bid to save his client from execution if convicted of murder, Brack Jones argued for the defence that the chaining and dragging was the method of the killing, not intentional kidnapping.

Before concluding its case, the prosecution provided some of the most gruesome evidence of the trial when it called a pathologist who said that he believed Mr Byrd was alive and writhing in pain as he was dragged by his chained ankles along a rough road for more than two miles behind the truck. He was decapitated when he hit a concrete culvert in the road.

"He was attempting to keep his head off of the pavement. He was conscious," said Tommy Brown, who performed the autopsy on Mr Byrd a day after the murder.

The defence in the case consisted of just three witnesses, including a fellow inmate of Mr King's during an earlier spell in prison who had applied some of the defendant's many tattoos and said they were not racist but "looked cool, that's all".

Mr King, 24, is accused of being the ringleader who wanted to kill to gain publicity for his new racist gang when he and his flatmates, Lawrence Brewer, 31, and Shawn Berry, 24, picked up Mr Byrd as he was hitchhiking home in the early hours.

They are alleged to have taken him to a back road and given him a severe beating with various tools before shackling him with the 24ft logging chain for his final journey.

The other two defendants face trial later this year.

US blocks satellite sale to Beijing

BY IAN BRODIE

THE Clinton Administration yesterday blocked the sale of an advanced communications satellite to China, citing national security. The satellite, costing $450 million (£280 million), was to have provided a mobile telephone network stretching over much of Asia.

Washington refused export licences to Hughes Electronics because of concerns about the network's probable value to the Chinese military. There were also worries at the Pentagon that the technology needed to place the satellite in orbit would help the Chinese to make their fleet of intercontinental ballistic missiles more accurate.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Parliament puts Cresson to test

Brussels: The future of Edith Cresson, the embattled European Union Commissioner, appeared more uncertain last night after she submitted to a humiliating public interrogation by the European Parliament and insisted that she bore no guilt for alleged fraud and nepotism committed under her stewardship (Charles Bremner writes).

The most embarrassing moment for the former French Prime Minister came when Michael Tappin, a British Labour MEP, distributed a file on her employment of René Berthelot, a dentist friend from her home town of Châtellerault, where she was a long-serving mayor. Mr Tappin called on her to resign for "creating the atmosphere of cronyism".

Anwar names attacker



Kuala Lumpur: Anwar Ibrahim, right, Malaysia's former Deputy Prime Minister, directly implicated a former police chief as the man who beat him in custody, an inquiry heard (David Watts writes). It was the first time that Tan Sri Rahim Noor had been blamed for the beating which gave Mr Anwar a black eye and caused a world outcry.

Eritrea under attack

Addis Ababa: The war in the Horn of Africa worsened with Ethiopia launching a big offensive, including airstrikes, against Eritrea. The Eritrean Foreign Ministry announced the offensive as a communiqué in Addis Ababa said the Ethiopian Air Force and heavy artillery units had attacked positions on all three fronts on Sunday and Monday. Eritrea said that its forces had destroyed nine Ethiopian tanks and captured two, while repelling the western front assault. *(AFP)*

Tortured men backed

Harare: A magistrate here has ruled that two journalists tortured by military interrogators last month should be allowed to visit a London clinic specialising in therapy for torture victims (Jan Raath writes). The decision came after lawyers for Mark Chavunduka, 37, editor of the *Standard*, and Ray Choto, 33, a reporter, submitted medical evidence of their injuries. But state lawyers immediately prevented their departure for London with a High Court challenge to the ruling.

Victim left arm behind

Marseilles: A motorcyclist, suffering from shock, left part of an arm at the scene of an accident, but doctors reattached it after police found the limb. Olivier Fauré, 21, who was hit by a car in southern France, was taken home by another driver without realising his left forearm had been severed. His mother alerted emergency workers while M Fauré was taken to hospital. Police found the arm dozens of yards from the accident scene and it was reattached in a 12-hour operation. *(AP)*

Briton held hostage

Bogotá: A Briton is among 16 foreigners being held hostage by Colombian rebels, the head of the country's anti-kidnapping unit said. The others are a Japanese, two French, four Italians, three Spaniards, one Algerian, three Venezuelans and a Chilean. Several of the foreigners, being held by three different groups, were seized at random at roadblocks which the rebels routinely set up. *(AFP)*

Ukraine leader held



Moscow: Pavlo Lazarenko, left, a former Prime Minister of Ukraine arrested last week for trying to enter the United States without the correct documents, is in custody awaiting a decision by immigration authorities (Anna Blundy writes). Ukraine has sought his extradition over the theft of more than £1.2 million of state property.

'Pregnant' baby saved

Hanoi: A four-month-old Vietnamese girl with a severely distended stomach and vomiting was found to contain the developing foetuses of her two siblings. Tran Dong A, a surgeon at Ho Chi Minh City's Pediatric II Hospital, said the foetuses had been removed in a three-hour operation. He added that the baby was thin but in a stable condition. *(Reuters)*

How mad Max took me for a ride

Despite a nasty fall from a bolting horse, **Mary Ann Sieghart** still believes in the right to take risks

Mary Ann Sieghart is away. Five simple words at the end of my op-ed slot for the past two Fridays: so bland, yet so pregnant with possibility. Away on a tropical beach, wondering whether to swim to the reef or drink another rum punch? Away at a policy-wonkers' conference, discussing the future of constitutional reform? I had suggested "unwell" instead of "away", despite the Jeffrey Bernard annotations. For I was lying in bed with a thumping headache and sporadic dizzy spells, wishing the world would shrivel up and die.

The pain was self-inflicted. And, as with Mr Bernard, it was caused by an excess of spirits. Not downed by me, though. The spirits belonged to a bolting horse, from which I fell, on a road, at top speed, on to my head. The result is what the neurologist calls "very significant concussion" (rather a Freudian diagnosis, I thought), not dissimilar to the sort he sees in car-crash victims. There are cuts to my head through my riding hat, and the brain scan shows bruising between the skull and the brain. The only cures are rest ("with a capital R", he insists) and patience.

The trouble is that, as for many in my profession, patience is alien to me. If I were patient, I would not be a journalist on a daily newspaper; I would be writing a long and worthy book, due out in 2002. I would be happy to bury myself in a library, knowing that the fruits of my labour would one day be apparent. As it is, I can only just wait until tomorrow before the fruits of my labour land on the doormat.

Impatience is the hack's bedfellow — not, as for the past two weeks, a pile of newspapers and a laptop computer. And yes, I know, writing is not Rest, even though I keep stopping for a brain breather. But, as the neurologist admitted, journalists are not good at Rest: they always insist on going back to work long before they should. So, in lieu of political analysis, which really would make my head hurt to write, I thought it would be easier to tell the story of the accident.


BARRY LEWIS/NETWORK

A young rider on the road: "Believe me, it is not fun to fall on your head. But riding can be exciting and highly enjoyable, on the right horse in the right circumstances"

I had long promised our two daughters that, when they were old enough, they could learn to ride. Having found a stables that would teach them, I realised that their regular Sunday morning lesson would be a chance for me to return to the pursuit and have a bracing hack around the countryside while they learnt to rise to the trot.

The first week was great. I was given a young and lively horse, felt comfortable and confident and had an exhilarating canter out with two other riders. One of my companions, on an enormous three-day-eventer called Max, had a more hair-raising time. Headstrong and dead strong, Max would not be stopped, and when she found that he was galloping straight for a five-bar gate, showing no signs of deceleration, she had to wheel him round into a deep ploughed field to slow him down and save her skin.

So when, the following week, I was told that I was riding Max, I expressed some alarm. "But he's impossible to stop!" I pointed out.


DAVID PRICHARD

Mary Ann Sieghart riding in Morocco: "I would hate to banish all risk from my life"

Even though I am a reasonably experienced horsewoman, I am not brilliant. And I had a flash of every rider's nightmare — a horse that bolts with you. But the riding-school owner was adamant: Max would be fine. She had just taken him out herself and he would be too tired to misbehave.

I wish. From the start he was bad-tempered, laying his ears back and snapping at the neighbouring horse. Then, when my companion went in front and started trotting, Max tried to surge ahead at a canter, oblivious to my pull on the reins. I stopped him relatively easily after we had a proper run along the side of a field. But it was on the way home that he nearly killed me.

I later learnt that the person who had taken me out and was leading the way had, perhaps unwittingly, broken the stable's cardinal rule: not to trot or canter within striking distance of home. A horse that is keen to get back is all too tempted to bolt. And that is exactly what Max did. An explosion of power and he was off, first along the grass verge to the country lane, then thundering down the Tarmac village road, downhill at a flat-out gallop.

There was no open field into which I could turn him, just hazards such as parked cars and fence posts. So I did what you should: sat back and tugged at the reins, but all he did was to accelerate beneath me. In desperation, I yelled "STOP!" at the top of my voice. At the bottom of the hill, I knew, was a main road with fast traffic. Just round the corner, before we hit the main road, might be a car coming towards us. How would this end?

I have a very slight recollection of him skidding on a left-hand bend. And the next thing I knew, I was in Winchester Hospital, throwing up. It was three hours later.

My husband and two small daughters, walking back from the stables, had seen a woman holding two large horses and, round the bend, a body spreadeagled on the road. A villager who had heard a loud thud looked outside and called an ambulance, but had been understandably reluctant to move me. My children were deeply shocked when they realised that the body was mine, but at least my husband is a trained paramedic, so he took charge and carried me into a cottage to wait for the ambulance that would take me to casualty.

The hospital kept me in overnight for observation, with a nurse waking me now and then to shine a torch into my pupils and ask what day of the week it was. Fortunately, the X-ray showed no skull fracture.

But these things take more than a day in a darkened room to cure. In a month, I am told, I shall be back to 90 per cent capacity; it will be another two to three months before I am completely normal again. Meanwhile, the prescription is for more sleep (about two hours extra a night) and a lot more Rest. And this week I shall probably have another brain scan to see whether the bruising has gone down.

Were I American, I would have sued on the spot. Even in this country, I would probably have a case. But I don't believe in that sort of thing. Litigation in America has got so out of hand that, when we went to a Texan dude ranch for a holiday, we were not allowed to ride faster than a plodding walk lest we fall off and claim our millions. Even the diving board had been removed from the swimming pool. Along with it, fun and excitement have vanished from many an American life.

Believe me, it is not fun to fall on your head. But riding can be exciting and highly enjoyable, on the right horse in the right circumstances. I would hate to banish all risk from my life — as I was intending to tell a Cabinet Office seminar on the subject of risk management the day after the fall. Unfortunately, and ironically, I never made it.

I was also going to tell the audience that adults should be allowed to choose their own balance between risk and reward, and risk and precaution. Luckily, I had taken the precaution of wearing a tightly fitting riding hat (now wrecked) with the chinstrap done up. Had I not, the excuse at the bottom of my column, last week and this, would hardly have been "away". It would, I fear, have been gone for good.

● *Max is grazed but otherwise fine.*

The unluckiest stargazer of all

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

An image of Uranus, taken from the *Voyager II* space probe in 1986. Early astronomers believed the planet to be a star

Did a forgotten astronomer discover the planet Uranus? Nigel Hawkes reports

The planet Uranus, a vast and trackless ball of gas in the outer reaches of the solar system, was discovered not once but 22 times. Credit is given to William Herschel, who, on March 13, 1781, was the first to realise that the object others had catalogued as a star was something else. He believed — quite wrongly, as it turned out — that it was a comet.

If an amateur astronomer from Manchester is right, the list of those who saw Uranus but failed to realise that it was anything out of the ordinary is about to get even longer. Kevin Kilburn, a materials manager for a Manchester plastics company, believes that Dr John Bevis, an 18th-century astronomer, may have spotted Uranus more than 40 years before Herschel.

To claim a planet is to grasp immortality. But before Herschel identified it, Uranus slipped through the fingers of John Flamsteed, who saw it six times, James Bradley (twice), Pierre Le Monnier (12 times) and Johann Tobias Mayer. All recorded it as nothing but a star.

Le Monnier's is the most inexplicable case, since he saw Uranus eight times in four weeks in December 1768 and January 1769. A planet, if seen more than once, ought to be easily distinguishable from a star because of its movement. But in poor Le Monnier's case, Uranus was near its stationary point when he made his observations.

John Bevis was a keen astronomer with an unlucky streak. He might now be remembered as the discoverer of a planet and the author of one of the finest star atlases of the 18th century, as well as the first man to identify the Crab Nebula. In fact he is forgotten.

Mr Kilburn's rehabilitation of Bevis began one evening in November 1997, when he and two fellow members of the Manchester Astronomical Society, Tony Cross and Michael Oates, were examining a mysterious star atlas in the society's collection. It was old, but they had no idea what it was.

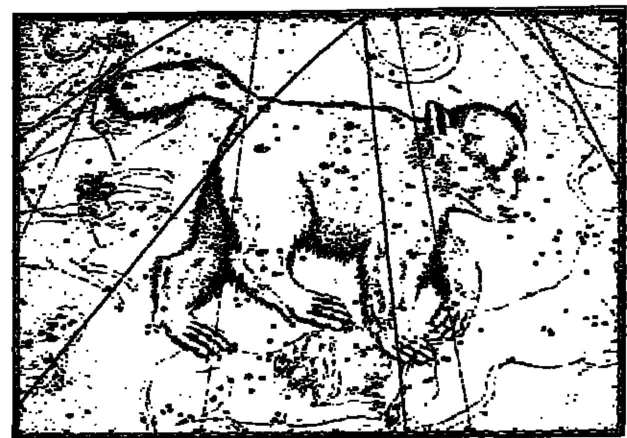
Research convinced them that what they had was a copy of Bevis's star atlas, *Uranographia Britannica*, which he compiled from his own observations and from those of John Flamsteed and Edmond Halley. Valued at £25,000, it is one of fewer than 20 copies known to survive and one of the most complete versions anywhere.

Born in 1693, Bevis had studied medicine at Christ Church, Oxford, where Newton's *Opticks* was his inseparable companion, the *Dictionary of National Biography* records. He practised as a doctor in London but grew dissatisfied and, in 1738, moved to Stoke Newington, where he set up an observatory. Here he worked feverishly, often measuring the transit across the sky of 160 stars in a single night.

By 1745 he was ready to publish an exact view of the heavens in 52 large plates, containing more detail than any previous atlas. But shortly before publication, says Mr Kilburn, fate dealt Bevis a shocking blow. His publisher, John Neale, went bankrupt and the copper plates, ready for the printer, were sequestered by the Court of Chancery.

Bevis died in 1771. In 1785, his library came on to the market. It contained three proof copies of the atlas and a lot of loose, first-impression star charts, which were sold to an anonymous buyer and appeared on the market again the following year in bound form as the *Atlas Celeste*, with no credit to Bevis. It is a copy of this "ghost book", as it became known, which was rediscovered last year in the cupboard at the Godlee Observatory in Manchester. The society has produced a version on CD-Rom at £13.99, which can be ordered online from its Web page, http://www.u-net.com/ph/mas

The atlas shows that Bevis must have been the first to observe the Crab Nebula, later independently discovered by Charles Messier. Bevis also discovered the great comet of 1744, unaware that others had seen it before him, and his atlas includes Flamsteed's 1690 observation of Uranus, which he believed to be a star. But Mr Kilburn is chiefly interested in whether Bevis saw Uranus independently when making observations in 1738 of faint objects to augment Flamsteed's observations.



The Constellation of the Great Bear, from Bevis's atlas

During that summer Uranus passed very close to the globular cluster later catalogued by Messier as M22, in the constellation of Sagittarius. Bevis's observations were recorded in the ghost book and certainly hint that he m... have recorded Uranus.

His plate, says Mr Kilburn, shows a triangle of stars to the right of M22. Such a triangle does not exist, although two of the stars can be identified as 24 and 25 Sagittarii. The third cannot be seen on modern star maps, yet the engraving shows all three as objects of similar size. The two known stars have magnitudes of 5.5 and 6.5, while Uranus in June 1738 would have been less than half a degree from the position of the third, non-existent star, and of magnitude 5.7.

Left of M22 is another star, which could be 26 Sagittarii but is shown as brighter than that star actually is. Could this be Uranus, which in May 1738 was very close by? Small errors in Bevis's recordings of position are possible, and the engraver of the plates made occasional errors, too.

So did Bevis discover Uranus? The case is plausible but unproved. The failure of *Uranographia Britannica* to be published was not, alas, the last of his disappointments. He was not, as he had hoped, appointed Astronomer Royal and so returned to medicine, but his passion for astronomy could not be quenched and it eventually killed him. On November 6, 1771, when observing the Sun's meridian altitude, he turned too quickly from telescope to clock and sustained a fall, from the effects of which he died.

He was, says the *Dictionary of National Biography*, "of a mild and benevolent disposition", his astronomical work distinguished more by diligence than by precision. Had he had less of one and a little more of the other, he might now be as famous as Herschel.

The dangers of iodine deficiency

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Human beings are extraordinarily dependent on iodine. For want of it, a child born as perfect as any other can descend into cretinism, physically deformed and mentally retarded. A more modest deficiency can cause goitre, the enlargement of the thyroid gland as it strives to function on inadequate iodine supplies.

Today Britain is free from iodine-deficiency diseases, though it has never been quite clear why. While many other countries introduced iodine into salt or bread on a compulsory basis, this was never done here. Iodised salt is available in Britain but its use has declined. Yet in the past half-century, and especially since 1960, goitre has disappeared.

The best explanation for this is milk. Since the 1960s milk has become the main source of iodine in the diet, followed by meat. The rise of milk as an iodine source is partly the result of iodine added to animal feedstuffs, and partly to luck. Cows milked in modern parlours have their udders and teats sterilised by iodine antiseptics, and some of this finds its way into the milk.

That meat and milk are the main sources of iodine could, however, be a problem to those who eat neither, as a study carried out in Germany and published in the *British Journal of Nutrition* shows. Vegans, in particular, could be at serious risk of iodine deficiency.

A team from the Research Institute of Child Nutrition in Dortmund, Germany, studied six adult volunteers on different diets. Dr Thomas Remer and colleagues report that even those on non-vegetarian diets had a low iodine intake, around 35-40 micrograms a day compared with the current recommendation in Germany of 200 micrograms a day. But the vegetarian volunteer was even lower — 16 micrograms a day. This particular person did not eat fish or seafood, a good source of iodine, but did drink milk. The German study ties in with work in Switzerland and New Zealand, showing declines in iodine intake, says Dr Lena Davidsson, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in a commentary in the same issue of the journal. One reason may be the decline in salt consumption, driven by worries over its effects on blood pressure. Iodised salt remains an important source of iodine in many countries. Dr Alan Long, a vegetarian and nutritionist, says that vegans, and those who do not drink milk, need to take the German study seriously. He is aware of at least one vegan in Britain who was found to be iodine-deficient and prescribed treatment before any damage was done. But he fears that there may be others.

In other parts of the world, iodine deficiency remains a serious problem. Even today it is estimated that in the developing world about 750 million people suffer from goitre, and 5.7 million from cretinism.

Iodine can be bought in the form of pills, often derived from seaweed, but Dr Long complains that they are frequently badly labelled and give incorrect analyses of iodine content. Some years ago he persuaded the Ministry of Agriculture to commission analyses of 60 commercial supplements, which showed that many were inaccurately labelled. One contained ten times as much iodine as the label claimed, which would raise intakes to toxic levels.

Hot spots that can change a locust's brain



AN early exposure to high temperatures appears to have permanent effects on the brains of locusts, enabling them to fly in very hot conditions. Those raised in temperate climates and then transferred to a warm desert often have trouble flying, and some of them even die, says Dr Nino Ramirez, of the University of Chicago. But those that have been exposed to a brief blast at 45C have no trouble.

Together with colleagues he investigated why, and they report in the *Journal of Physiology* that the heat shock has permanent effects.

They exposed 40 locusts to temperatures of 45C for three hours, gave them six to 24 hours to recover, and then compared slices of their brains — a very delicate operation, which nobody had done before — with those of locusts who had been kept at room temperature. Tools thinner than a human hair were needed.

They found that potassium outflow from the brain cells of the heat-shocked locusts was greatly reduced. Dr Ramirez suspects that this might reduce the sensitivity of the neurons responsible for movement, enabling the locusts to continue flying in extreme conditions.

Now he is turning his attention to mice to see if their brain cells can also adapt to extreme temperatures. Understanding the protection conferred by heat might ultimately be useful in protecting the brains of stroke patients, he believes.

Badger mystery



DESPITE legislation designed to protect it, the badger is still persecuted. As many as 9,000 badger setts are dug each year, in almost all cases illegally. Many others die on the roads. So it might be assumed that the best bet for a badger would be to choose to live in the most remote place it could find.

Not so, according to a study by two biologists from the Manchester Metropolitan University, published in the *Journal of Zoology*. They found that badgers do best if they live in public places, in open country close to roads or public footpaths. The more points of public access, the better — presumably because people who would dig setts or set their dogs on badgers are less likely to do so if they risk being seen.

Paradoxically, the study also shows that badgers do better on the land of farmers opposed to badger conservation. Explaining this is a bit of a puzzle, but it is possible that such uncooperative landowners are as opposed to trespassers as they are to badgers. The researchers' conclusion is clear: "We suggest that existing public access may be benign or even beneficial in areas of high wilful persecution," they say.

A far cry from Jean Machine

Despite his huge success, Tommy Hilfiger craves higher recognition. Interview by **Lisa Armstrong**

PETER ARNELL




The Hilfiger look: the upscale designs for this summer

SIMON WALKER



Tommy Hilfiger, the American designer, has a new store, Tommy's World, in New Bond Street, London

All American, a pictorial style tome by Tommy Hilfiger, is speckled with his convivial *aperçus*. On fashion conformists he says: "I was one." On English rock: "It's influenced me totally." On jeans: "They should look and feel faded and comfortable, and be somewhat irreverent, like you don't have a regular job and you don't care."

Hilfiger, one senses, wants to be liked, wants to be on first names with the world — witness the name of his hugely successful scent, Tommy.

Occasionally be-jeaned, but sometimes in hand-made suits from his favourite London tailors, Anderson & Sheppard, he stands astride a clothing empire about which, one imagines, he cares very much.

Enough, at any rate, for the fashionistas' disinclination to regard him as a serious designer to rankle, even though he says that he has come to terms with "being someone who makes clothes that aren't outrageously expensive and sells to the young".

But, he concedes, he would like to be regarded as "an Important American Designer". This seems unlikely, despite Red Label, a new upscale line of men's and women's clothes, that he has hopes of seeing at the Oscars. If not, it will be in his store at New Bond Street, London — 16,000 sq ft of Tommy's World — which opened yesterday. He should worry. Tommy Hilfiger Inc turns over $1.5 billion (£909 million) a year and is giving Ralph Lauren a run for his Polo shirts (the latter recently laid off 250 staff, one consequence, according to *The New York Times*, of Hilfiger's success).

Hilfiger, who owns a quarter of the company, is personally valued at around $100 million (£62 million) — enough to finance his personal staff of 12; the 22-room clapboard Colefax & Fowlered farmhouse in Greenwich, Connecticut, from where his helicoptered journey into work every day takes 15 mintues; the spread in Mustique; and to see his four children, aged between three and 13, through private school.

His personal life is markedly sane. His wife, Susie, runs her own business selling traditional English-style children's clothes. Her nostalgic style is as far removed from Tommy Hilfiger merchandise as Milly Molly Mandy is from Tank Girl. These contradictions are one of the endearing aspects about Hilfiger. If the label is straightforward in its democratic, youthful American vision, the man is less clear-cut. The alliances with the more controversial personalities in showbusiness — from Mick Jagger and Michael Jackson to Hugh Grant and Snoop Doggy Dog — are only part of the story.

His offices, above Fifth Avenue, are accessorised with a couple of electric Gibson guitars ("Tommy likes to play," says his PR, "but not so you'd like to hear."). But they are also furnished with WASPy sisal matting, weathered leather armchairs, and black and white framed photos.

His earliest ad bore the notorious legend: "The four great designers for men are R**** L*****, P**** E****, C***** K**** and T**** H*******." For someone whose fashion expertise at that point comprised a stint as a sales assistant in Jean Machine on the King's Road, London, and a moderately successful jeans line that went into chapter 11, this was an enviable display of self-belief.

"Those ads were thought up by George Lois, who is a marketing genius. I was a little embarrassed at their tone in the beginning," he says, "but it would have taken years to get known without them."

The latest tactic, of developing an upmarket line to headline the existing ones, is the reverse of normal procedure, which creates an aspirational image before plunging into diffusion markets. But it might well work. Red Label is stuffed with wearable pieces any wannabe rock chick would love.

Born 46 years ago in Elmira, in New York State, Hilfiger was one of nine children of a Catholic watchmaker, and left school early ("They thought I was dyslexic"). He came to London and returned a year later to put his Jean Machine experience to some use.

"I found working there boring — it was just piles of blue jeans." With his last $150 he bought 20 pairs of bell-bottoms and opened a boutique entitled People's Place. Five years later he had ten stores and a Porsche 911. By 1977 People's Place was in trouble. "I was hard on myself. I vowed never to fall into sloppy work habits again. Money, after a certain point," he says, "is not what drives me." So what does? "Fear of failure."

One imagines him being a no-nonsense father, although he says: "I'm trying hard not to be too hard on my kids." Certainly they are not paraded in public and didn't attend his fashion show in Manhattan last week. "They had homework and school the next day." Whatever one thinks of this bid for normality, there is one small chink in Tommy World; while his three sons are happy to have their Dad's name across their chests, his daughter prefers the plainer stuff. "She's not crazy about logos, you see."

It's weird but it's new England

A new Kent estate is being marketed as a perfect English village. But **Celia Brayfield** is not convinced

Who would buy a house from a man who edges his driveway with begonias? Or from a woman named Sharon who wears a white hard hat instead of white high heels? The answer is supplied by a BBC documentary that captures Mondeo Man and Mike Leigh Woman buying the houses of their dreams on the new estate at King's Hill, near Maidstone in Kent.

Let's get the language right. It's not a house, it's a home: the developer, Crest Homes, says so. And it's not an estate, it's a village: the super-developers, Rouse Kent Ltd, says so, and points to village features such as a village green and a village golf course. And she's not a Mike Leigh Woman, she calls herself a "millennial ruralist", and she's clear that "like most people who've grown up in towns and suburbs, I have a feeling that I'd like to be closer to the good things in rural life". But she doesn't want "that cockerel thing waking you up at 3am", and Sharon doesn't want any village-style mud in the show home because that would give buyers the message that Crest Homes doesn't care.

> 'It features Mondeo Man and Mike Leigh Woman'

This is a subtle documentary, perhaps too subtle, but a dignified respite from the grotesque junk that now passes for factual TV. The film-makers spent a year recording the building, marketing, sale and occupation of 53 new homes in this ground-breaking, ah, *village*. We can make up our own minds about the saleswoman who explains how to push buyers into higher mortgages — "If they don't know what they can afford, try to steer them in the right direction."

The programme deserves to be archived because it records a piece of England in the process of defining itself. We, the English, are supposed to be having an identity crisis, but nobody has told them on King's Hill, where they're naming streets after the English apple varieties that don't grow in Kent any more.

The show-home designer knows how we see ourselves — school of *House & Garden* circa 1989, which means chintz-effect curtains with tie-backs, sloping ceilings in the bedrooms, fitted carpets, double doors. The architects were in no doubt either, going for diamond-paned leaded-light windows and vernacular-style brickwork. "People like houses with a front door in the middle and four windows at the front, like children draw," says Sharon. She must be right. Crest Estates aims to sell its *villages* before they are built and the show home always goes first. They have to budget for the theft of everything pocket-sized in the building, presumably by people who don't know they can afford prices from £125,000 to just under £300,000.

King's Hill is the Utopia of the Nineties, the latest attempt at something we've been trying to get right all this century. Its 650-acre site was once West Malling airfield, and it is 15 miles from the M25, an hour from London and just more than two hours from Paris. Kent County Council, with a stiff quota of new homes to provide, brought in Rouse Kent, affiliates of an American real estate investment trust, who "master-planned" the site. In order of priority, its vision was of a business park employing 10,000 people, the golf course, 1,850 homes, schools, shops, a pub, a medical centre, the University of Greenwich, sports grounds and public art.

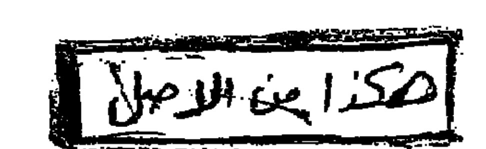
The masterplan included recycling the airfield concrete, replanting the wild orchids and replacing trees cut down. In 1996 Tony Blair visited to bless King's Hill, which he called "a fantastic development". Now, 550 homes and two public sculptures into the masterplan, it seems fantastic in many senses.

The people who moved in are youngish, upwardly mobile white families who are happy to sign covenants agreeing not to threaten property values by painting their front doors forbidden colours, or flaunting their dustbins.

This is not a village, it is an instant conurbation. Sharon's customers seem classless, cultureless and rootless, ready to mortgage their souls for a view of the golf course. King's Hill will shortly be declared a new parish, but there is no church. It's weird, but it is real and it may be the new England.

● *Living Room, Modern Times, BBC2, Wednesday March 3, 9pm.*





Darkness visible in Mississippi

The South is another country, and Faulkner the best guide

There are two ways to get to Oxford, Mississippi, from the state capital, Jackson. You can follow the Natchez road, an old Indian trail straight north into the hill country. Or you can take the flat back roads through the battered Delta towns. They used to be synonymous with the blues and with the worst poverty in America, but they have had the edge of their bleakness rubbed off by the cash from new casinos.

Either way, you are likely to be going to this Southern town for only one of two reasons. Either you're visiting "Ole Miss", the University of Mississippi, itself hardly free from the taint of the state's racist history. Or you are drawn by the William Faulkner industry, which has flourished in the town where he lived most of his life.

There is a case not just for thinking Faulkner is one of America's greatest writers, but for actually reading the books. And, incidentally, for visiting Oxford. I say that somewhat defensively, because so many people hold the opposite view with passion. "Some of the sentences are longer than a page" said one of my Washington colleagues incredulously. If I wanted to bother with visiting a shrine to the South, he continued, I would be better off going to Graceland.

But thousands do make the pilgrimage to Oxford. The town was ambivalent about Faulkner during his life. It has been less so since he won the Nobel Prize, and the value of the tourism became obvious. The square around the courthouse, lined with coloured brick and wooden two-storey buildings, is unchanged from his lifetime — or from his writing. At any time of year, it will attract crowds of fans, many from European universities where the study of the Old South has become hugely fashionable.

Bronwen Maddox

They take trips out to his grave, to tuck a bottle of whiskey into its grassy surround. Or they walk 20 minutes to his white, pillared house, Rowan Oak, to look reverentially at his bed, his spare wooden furniture, his stables, and at the many photographs of a surprisingly small man stroking tall horses. Despite the quietness of Rowan Oak, it was a troubled life. His wife tried to commit suicide on honeymoon: she survived to negotiate a marriage that was an alcohol-drenched battlefield. Faulkner had one daughter, and too many lovers.

Given the darkness of Faulkner's life and work, there is inevitably something comic about the middle-aged groupies. Long strangers to Bohemia, they are trying nevertheless to relive the excitement they felt during their college literature courses. Many of the female pilgrims wear ethnic jewellery at the neck and ears, open-toed leather sandals on their feet, and something shapeless and cotton in between. One fan, in late middle age, appeared to be offering herself in sacrifice. She was wearing a T-shirt inscribed with the famous quotation: "If a writer has to rob his mother, he will not hesitate: the 'Ode on a Grecian Urn' is worth any number of old ladies."

But the reverence, if a touch comic, is justified by the writing. In just seven years, from 1929 to 1936, he produced an extraordinary series of books: *Sartoris, The Sound and the Fury, As I Lay Dying, Sanctuary, Light in August, Absalom!, Absalom!*

He was, by his own description, a Southern writer, and that is inescapably part of the interest. He wrote about the extraordinary period after the Civil War, but before the Second World War, when the South had not yet been transformed by the flood of cash from Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal.

His writing goes to the heart of the preoccupations which made the South so separate from the rest of the country — and sometimes still do. "Tell about the South" commands a character in *Absalom!, Absalom!*, which many call his greatest novel. "What's it like there, what do they do there, why do they live there, why do they live at all?"

The South was haunted by obsession with defeat at the hands of the North, with the failure of a tradition, a way of life and an economic system. As Faulkner put it, the "deep South dead since 1865" was "peopled with garrulous outraged baffled ghosts" still protesting at that catastrophic humiliation. Faulkner romanticises the culture of the South before the Civil War, denying what he called the "old shame" of slavery. He nurtures the myth, like *Gone with the Wind*, of happy plantations, with blacks and whites living harmoniously together.

But beyond those localised themes from the Civil War, there is an immersion in the darker, age-old wars between the sexes and the races. The stories are shocking now, never mind at the time.

The books do "present difficulties", as his professional advocates in academia are prone to say coyly. There are tortuous cascades of phrases, as Faulkner attempts to capture the world in a single sentence. There are, too, his public statements on race, which have damned him in the eyes of some literature departments. In one famous remark — which he later disavowed, claiming he had been drunk — he declared: "As long as there's a middle road, all right, I'll be on it. But if it came to fighting I'd fight for Mississippi against the United States even if it meant going out into the street and shooting Negroes."

Despite those obstacles, it's worth persisting. Compared with the myth of constantly reinventing yourself which permeates so much of American culture and writing, it is salutary to be reminded, as Faulkner put it, that in his part of the country "The past is never dead. It's not even past". And if you've gone to Oxford and are, against the odds, unsatisfied, there is always Elvis, an hour down the road.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Tony Blair's Rasputin

A vain premier and his closest courtier are in a dangerous embrace

Who is the most powerful person in Britain today? The answer is easy, the Prime Minister, the Great White Smile, the one-and-only Tony Blair. But who is the second most powerful person in Britain? Aha.

On Monday morning a cloud no bigger than a politician's promise darkened the countenance of Downing Street. It was the front page of *The Sun*, a paper to which Mr Blair puts his ear each day, believing it to be the voice of the common man, an individual otherwise absent from his schedule. The front page was brutal. Alongside a picture of Mr Blair and his colleagues, it asked, "Is this the most arrogant Cabinet in history?" A Latin grammarian would have called it a headline expecting the answer yes.

The Sun's outburst followed a stream of recent incidents suggesting a Government obsessed with control and frightened of dissent. Downing Street seemed unable to tolerate phenomena as diverse as democratic Labour primaries, leaks of the Lawrence inquiry, unimprisoned schizophrenics or unattended homework. Whereas centralised control was previously asserted with barely a whip's crack, trouble was bursting out all over. The inevitable whisper is doing the rounds. This would not have happened in the old days of the Prince of Darkness.

The talk is that the Prime Minister misses Peter Mandelson. He wanders the lonely corridors mooning over his ghost, like Henry II over Becket. He misses the soft murmur in the ear, the seductive beep of the pager, the reassuring morning call to give him "the day's message". Mr Mandelson's reputation blossoms over his early grave. Happy the courtier whose fall is followed by fiasco. "Every Prime Minister needs a Willie," said Margaret Thatcher of Viscount Whitelaw. Every Blair seems to need a Mandy.

The departure of Mr Mandelson has upset the power balance within Britain's most opaque political institution, Downing Street. He was close to Mr Blair, yet he was outside the Downing Street coterie, located first in the Cabinet Office then at Trade and Industry. He was thus a rival conduit of advice to that of the Press Secretary, Alastair Campbell. In Opposition, these two spin-doctors had complemented each other, Mr Mandelson the modernist, Mr Campbell the old sawbones. Mr Blair was so insecure he would have Mr Campbell sit next to him during radio interviews, a comfort awarded by the BBC to no other politician. Afterwards he would be on the mobile phone to Mr Mandelson to find out "how it played". The rivalry of the two men was held in check by nothing going wrong.

The question was, who would survive when the going got tough. Before the election, Mr Campbell had asked Baroness Thatcher's press officer, Sir Bernard Ingham, how he should handle Mr Mandelson if they should both find themselves in Downing Street. Sir Bernard's reply was brisk, "Slit his throat." He would have to show he was boss. This grim necessity was pre-empted by the Government's continued good fortune and by a greater rivalry, the informal "separation of powers" between Downing Street and the Treasury. This rivalry was resolved, for the time being, when Mr Blair lost Mr Mandelson and Mr Brown lost his own spin-doctor, Charlie Whelan, last Christmas.

Simon Jenkins

Mr Campbell has swiftly moved to capitalise on their fall. He is now in a position of dominance over Mr Blair that alarms almost all who have dealings with Downing Street. He is far more than a press officer. His relations with both Tony and Cherie Blair, long close, now parody Rasputin's with Tsar Nikolas and Alexandra. Mr Campbell is the fearless magician who claims to be able to stem the haemophiliac flow of bad news that is hereditary to all governments.

In this, his role is quite different from Sir Bernard Ingham's. Sir Bernard kept his place below the Cabinet salt. He did not attend ministerial meetings, was briefed by officials and acted merely as the boss's protector and mouthpiece. He was output, never input. Mr Campbell attends Cabinet meetings, the first Downing Street press officer to do so. He even goes to defence meetings on Kosovo. He has total access to the Prime Minister and has no reticence in giving his point of view. Last month Mr Blair was involved in a Seychelles dinghy "rescue". The lobby joke was that he must have phoned Mr Campbell from the boat to ask what to do. It was no joke. He did.

All Prime Ministers have those with whom they naturally feel at ease. But even Margaret Thatcher was careful to garner advice and thus diffuse collective responsibility. She had served in difficult Cabinets herself. Mr Blair did not. He is inexperienced in executive power. He has rendered Cabinet ministers little more than agency chiefs, even stealing their more photogenic announcements for himself (especially if they involve nurses or children). Ministers are left to take the flak and deliver crudely quantified manifesto pledges. Both Frank Dobson and David Blunkett are now frantic to achieve waiting list and maths targets of ludicrous precision. British public administration is becoming a Benthamite nightmare, in which every teacher, doctor, social worker and policeman must climb a statistical league table each year or slither to ignominy.

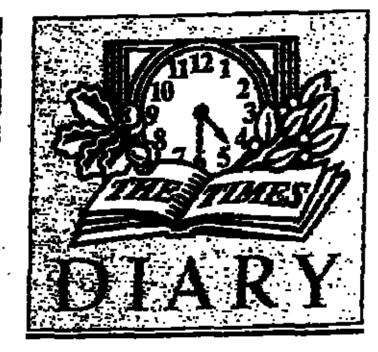
At the centre of this web of control is Downing Street, and at its centre is Mr Campbell. With him in lonely splendour are Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet secretary; Jonathan Powell, whose fortunes are heavily linked to peace in Ulster; Jeremy Heywood, the Treasury's ambassador at Blair's court; and the policy chief, David Miliband. These men run Britain to a degree that no previous Downing Street team has done. They are far more than a kitchen cabinet. They are Mr Blair.

Yet accountability in government never disappears. Every actor needs an audience. Every writer needs a critic. A government may stifle its enemies, neuter its party and nobble its Parliament, but it will still crave a response. In the absence of any other, it will turn to the media, cussed, irresponsible, detested, but always ready to oblige. *Faute de mieux*, the British media have a virtual monopoly on political opposition in Britain today.

Mr Blair is emerging from the chrysalis of triumph as an odd sort of Prime Minister. Supremely charismatic, he is not intellectually tough. He is strangely mesmerised by the views of businessmen. He hates dissent. Like many leaders before him, he is bored by the details of policy but loves the surface theatricality of foreign affairs. He prefers the empty but well-turned phrase to the substantive idea. He is an advocate always in need of a brief. But nothing seems to compel him so much as his ever-changing mirror of the press. "How will it play?" he demands of a policy, long before "What should it be?"

Thus does Mr Blair find himself closeted ever more closely with Mr Campbell. Thus does Mr Campbell find himself ever more exposed to the Cabinet as the true "Deputy Prime Minister", fiercely loyal, increasingly exhausted and, as in his recent Fabian lecture, paranoid before his time. Mr Campbell's past experience is only of the incestuous world that is now the butt of his scorn, the press. He has a short fuse, a young family and too little time to himself. Mr Blair's reliance on him is total and relentless. It is surely unhealthy for both of them. They should remember who did in Rasputin. It was those who claimed to have the Tsar's best interest at heart.

No article should need later exegesis. Last week I satirised Robin Cook's diplomacy by suggesting that Turkey's troubles with the Kurds might be next in line for his bomb-happy intervention. The irony of my argument was lost in a malicious translation, which has caused wide offence in Turkey. I strongly oppose interference in the affairs of sovereign states, especially where they concern separatist conflicts, as innumerable articles on this page will attest.



Song of strife

THE Pet Shop Boys are threatening to sue Roger Scruton. The popsters Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe are upset about a reference to them in the philosopher's *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Modern Culture*. It questions how much input they have in their records.

Scruton is surprised his words should have been considered defamatory by the singers. He insists that he thinks they are brilliant studio technicians. "I am concerned if this has given offence," Scruton tells me. "A lot of my writing does and I apologise if my words are misinterpreted." Misinterpreted?

WHISKY to the general. Lord Lamont of Lerwick has sent a bottle to dear Augusto Pinochet. Norm, campaigning to get the Generalissimo home, felt he needed cheering up. When Pinochet received it, he asked: "Is Lamont a law lord?" He looked glum when he learnt that Norm had only been a Chancellor.

■ LIZ CALDER is to be eased out of the Editor-in-Chief's chair at Bloomsbury. The grand dame of Fitzrovian fiction is to be replaced by someone more able to "pull in the young talent". Calder is editor to many heavy volumes, such as Margaret Atwood, as well as Will Self and Joanna Trollope (below).

She is to be replaced by Alexandra Pringle, a literary agent of five years' standing, who has also been editorial director of Virago and Hamish Hamilton.



She will arrive at Bloomsbury shortly to replace Calder, a founding director, next January. "But Liz will continue to work on her own list within Bloomsbury for the foreseeable future," I am told.

LITERARY courting. American Psycho *author Brett Easton Ellis tells me he had a blind date with Donna Tartt. "We were both at Bennington College, Vermont," says Ellis. "Friends set us up as we both wrote. We put first chapters of our books in each other's pigeonholes. She got the first chapter of* Less Than Zero *and she sent me* A Secret History. *Then we discussed them on the date."*

■ KEN LIVINGSTONE is gently setting aside his idealism to address a male-only gentlemen's club.

The Savile, devoid of women since 1868, will be platform for Ken's mayoral bid in April.

His recce into the haunt of Robert Louis Stevenson and Sir Edward Elgar is courtesy of Illtyd Harrington, his GLC chum and Savile stalwart. My advice: if you want to stay standing, avoid the club claret.



SIR JAMES SPICER has met his Churchillian hour of destiny. The ex-Tory MP plans to cap 40 years in politics — by standing for the local council. Sir Jimmy, 73, is to fight Beaminster: "I don't really want to, but I can't stand our Liberal council," he booms. "It will bang the drum for oldies."

■ FASHION god: Stephen Byers. The slick Trade and Industry Secretary has sashayed into London Fashion Week: "Shoes are my weakness," he tells me. "I wear trainers at weekends when I walk across the moor and I wear shorts when people might not see me. I like clothes, especially Armani, but," he adds mysteriously, "there is pressure to wear dark suits."

DURING filming of Shakespeare in Love, *Joseph Fiennes fell for Gwyneth Paltrow — dressed as a boy: "She made a lot of guys doubt their sexuality. I love that confusion of love." I fear the admission is called bad box office.*

JASPER GERARD

'I cannot call the fire brigade for help because the animal stuck in my acacia tree is a sheep'

In the centre of my back garden, some fifty feet from the house, there is a large acacia tree. Could be forty feet high: taller, certainly, than the loft in which I currently sit, staring at it. Now, while I normally sit staring at it because I do not know what to write, today is different: today I am staring at it because I do not know what to do. Which means that today, I do at least know what to write: I shall write about what I do not know what to do about.

What I do not know what to do about is the animal which is stuck in the branches of the acacia tree. It is has been stuck there for some hours. It is so stuck that it cannot come down of its own accord, and since it is halfway up the acacia tree, it is too high for my accord to be of any help to it. Yes, you are right, in such cases the normal course is to call the fire brigade: but this case is a bit less such than that. I cannot call the fire brigade, because the animal is a sheep. You will reply that this should not faze the fire brigade, we have seen *London's Burning*, there is no job too great or small for these plucky lads, they would have that sheep down in a trice — and I do not disagree. I didn't say the fire brigade couldn't do it. I said I couldn't call them.

Let me lower my stare, in your behalf, to the grassy area below the tree. See, it is not as grassy as it should be. That is because the tree is above it. Every year, as the tree spreads wider the lawn grows balder. But this year I decided to remedy that, which is why my lowered stare can also see that the grassless area, about a hundred square feet, is roped off and criss-crossed with twine to discourage birds from dining on the seed with which, a couple of days ago, I sowed the baldness.

It does not, of course, discourage the birds at all. They are not mugs, birds; they have knocked about a bit, and they have learnt that criss-crossed twine is not unlike a Michelin star, criss-crossed twine says this is a top place to eat, this is gourmet heaven, bring the family, tell your friends. No sooner had I finished criss-crossing and gone inside than a hundred square feet of beaks were tucking in. So I went outside again, waving and shouting, and they flew off and stood on the fence. After an hour or so it got dark, and we all went somewhere else.

Alan Coren

That night, Mrs Coren suggested I stick a broom in the middle of the patch and put a hat on it. It worked a treat: it was so much clearer than criss-crossed twine that, next morning, the clientele trebled. Birds were diving from ten thousand feet. I had sown Pearl Harbor. So since, after a couple of hours, all the fun had somehow gone out of shouting and waving, I telephoned the garden centre where I had bought the seed. Yes, they said, that is one of the curious things about birds: despite having extremely small brains, they nevertheless have just enough IQ to know that a broom with a hat on is a broom with a hat on. What I needed, they continued, was a scarecrow that moved in the wind, such as balloons. Better yet, said Mrs Coren, as I explained why I was putting my coat on, did I remember that place where we used to get inflatable figures for the children's birthday bashes? It was called The Non-Stop Party Shop, in Sydney Street. I think that they had inflatable cats, said Mrs Coren. Those would be just the thing.

They probably would. There is no way of knowing. Having driven from Cricklewood to Chelsea, I discovered that The Non-Stop Party Shop did not have inflatable cats. They had only one inflatable animal. Can you guess what it was? Of course you can; but can you guess why the box declared it to be The Bonking Sheep? I couldn't guess, either, but when I inflated it, I noticed that it had an orifice. Mrs Coren and I looked at the orifice for a bit, and then Mrs Coren observed that the sheep had blue eyes. She asked me if I had ever seen a sheep with blue eyes before. I told her I didn't think so, but then again, I didn't go to many non-stop parties, these days. Do you think it'll frighten the birds off, she said, and I said I don't know, but it scares the hell out of me.

That was Monday afternoon, just before I took the sheep out into the garden and tied its front legs to two pegs, leaving its back end free to swing about in the breeze. And, do you know, it was a total success: from 2pm to nightfall, not a bird went near. But it is Tuesday morning, now, and, as you may just have guessed, the breeze went from strength to strength last night. I don't know what time the gale got up, I know only that it did not get up alone, which is why I have a blue-eyed sheep with an orifice in my acacia tree. Now do you understand why I can't call the fire brigade?





FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE

From changeover to people's choice: *The Times* looks forward to what must change before any referendum

Yesterday in the Commons, the Prime Minister fired the starting gun for his attempt to take Britain into monetary union. In substance as well as style, this was no mere "change of gear" but the crossing of the Rubicon that Paddy Ashdown rushed to applaud. Tony Blair's desire to steer Britain into EMU is now clear. The euro, he says, is "a reality": Britain must prepare to be part of it.

The amendments that he announced to this year's Finance and Social Security Bills require substantial public investment. They anticipate a victory in the national referendum which, the Government has promised, would follow a Cabinet decision to join. Britons are not to be asked their view before this money is spent, only afterwards. These amendments will authorise government departments to make their systems euro-compatible. The Government is thus planning on the basis that the single currency is here to stay, that it will be well managed and that Britain will be part of it. And Mr Blair has now given the lobbyists for EMU the signal they have long demanded, starting a process designed to convince voters that entry is a foregone conclusion.

Inevitability is one of the most seductive mantras of modern European politics. To go with the flow is the greatest desire of modern European politicians. To be left out of a seemingly inevitable European unification is almost the greatest fear of this consciously modern British Prime Minister.

Fortunately, Mr Blair has another fear, greater even than his fear of exclusion from the councils of those who have chosen EMU. He fears repudiation and defeat by the British electorate. He will not recommend to Britons that they give up their currency unless he is confident that the reply will be yes. Today that answer would be no.

Yesterday's statement is confirmation of his confidence that he can change public opinion. He will, however, follow the trend of that opinion with exquisite care. His decision on whether to ask voters to join will still depend on when and if he judges that the majority is so persuaded. Thus, in a decision based on the constant analysis of opinion polls, millions of Britons have a responsibility to think, and to choose. Those people and institutions best able to influence public opinion have the very greatest responsibility.

The Times, which is both a British newspaper and a European newspaper, is one of those institutions. For more than two centuries we have watched the successes and failures of continental countries to seek prosperity and harmony. We have had no monopoly of wisdom. But no newspaper has surpassed us for engagement in the issues which guide the islands of Britain in their dealings with the rest of the world.

We are not, and never have been, anti-Europeans, little-Englanders, blood-and-soil nationalists or shrinkers from the risks of the unknown. Those epithets already form the charge-sheet against all opponents of Britain adopting the euro; and in some cases the use of these words may be justified. *The Times*, however, is not persuaded of the economic merits of monetary union and takes the constitutional issues more seriously than the Prime Minister appears to.

As Europeans, as internationalists, as democrats and advocates of free trade in goods and ideas, we want to see a successfully modernising, dynamic Europe open to the world. The reforming agenda for Europe that Mr Blair set out yesterday is one that we would share. He believes that this is the direction that the eurozone is taking. But in the 11 countries of the eurozone, what we see is too much of the opposite. On the long referendum road, where their every move and mood will be observed by government pollsters, the British people should be acting as sharp observers themselves, looking at the eurozone to see if this is a system to which they want to lock their fate.

The Government's policy, as set out in October 1997 and given vastly greater political impetus by the Prime Minister yesterday, can be simply summarised. "In principle", it wants to join. The "constitutional issue" is a factor but "not an overriding one". Mr Blair set it aside even more clearly yesterday, saying that "it is right for Britain to overcome these political and constitutional arguments and the fears behind them". "The economic benefits must", however, "be clear and unambiguous." The Cabinet will recommend entry only if five economic tests are met.

The "first and most critical" is the durable convergence of the UK business cycle with that of the eurozone. The second is sufficient "flexibility" to adapt to a single currency regime. The Government accepts that "unemployment and inflexibility" are problems for eurozone countries, but the emphasis is on Britain's need to tackle its own "long-term unemployment, lack of skills and in some areas lack of competition". The third is the effect on inward investment to the UK. The fourth is the impact on the City's future as Europe's leading financial centre which the Government believes would be more secure within EMU. The fifth is the effect on British jobs.

These are practical markers, concentrating on technical questions such as asymmetric business cycles. The tests are narrow even in terms of the Government's insistence, reinforced by the Prime Minister yesterday, that the decision will be based exclusively on economic considerations. And they are tests for Britain to pass, not ways of measuring what would make the eurozone irresistibly attractive.

THE FIVE TESTS

Before serious debate can begin about the balance between EMU's economic advantages and constitutional costs, the eurozone needs to undergo substantial economic and political change:

- The "European social model" with its low growth, high taxes and huge unemployment must give way to one that is more dynamic and competitive. Signs of this will be dramatically reduced state intervention, elimination of subsidies, reform of welfare disincentives and unfunded pensions systems and much smaller public payrolls. Government spending, adjusted for accelerated privatisation, must be cut to 45 per cent or less of GDP, enabling steep cuts in taxation.
- Flexible labour markets must show consistently high levels of employment. That will require visible reform of restrictive labour laws and other non-competitive practices, sharply reduced non-wage labour costs and open markets in government procurement. A key part of this test will be a steep and sustainable fall in eurozone unemployment, currently averaging 10.8 per cent, to around British levels, with strong private sector growth in jobs.
- The single currency must be a manifest and sustained success. It must work smoothly to the benefit of all its members and command popular support. To avoid social unrest, a rise in nationalism or a political backlash against the EU itself, the gains must seen by a clear majority of Europe's voters to outweigh the pain of economic adjustment and the diminution of democratic controls. The eurozone must begin to demonstrate that it can ride out recessions and shocks that affect some member states more than others: by the expected referendum date of 2002, this vital criterion is unlikely to be measurable by any solid objective test.
- The constitution of the European Central Bank must be radically reformed. The ECB is now the most powerful public institution in Europe but it is not responsible to any elected body. It operates in secret, refuses to disclose its voting records, sets its own targets and acts as judge and jury of its own performance. Its officials cannot be dismissed, disciplined or censured by any government or elected body. The ECB's objectives must be revised, to charge it with avoiding deflation as well as inflation. Its adversarial relationship with Europe's elected governments, already causing major political clashes in Europe, must be clarified. Making the ECB's constitution compatible with democracy and economic reality will require amendments to the Maastricht treaty.
- Monetary union must prove workable without a drive to European political union. Key parts of this test will be the retention of national sovereignty in fiscal policies, including corporate taxation and taxes on savings, with the veto preserved and no extension of collective decision-making in this domain. The drive to harmonise or "co-ordinate" national laws, whether directly in EU councils or indirectly, through recourse by the Commission to social chapter, health and safety or single market provisions, must be halted. Both politically and economically, the eurozone must be outward-looking; monetary union must not be an obstacle to EU enlargement.

We believe that tests are needed on the other side too, tests that the single currency area must pass before debate can be joined about whether it could conceivably make sense for Britain to be part of it. These tests must be met before the Government should even consider putting membership to a referendum.

To list them indicates the distance to be travelled. Much of Europe still awaits its modernising revolution. In terms of labour costs, welfare bills, bankrupt pension funds, state subsidies and government spending, taxation and unemployment, the eurozone needs to change in fundamental ways. When these changes have been clearly seen to happen, Europe will indeed be "going Britain's way", making possible a rational assessment of the "success" of the single currency and a properly based debate on whether this country should take an irreversible step to stay in line with its continental neighbours.

A thriving monetary union would have a stable currency, a rate of growth as high or higher than its competitors and, after a decade of economic stagnation, a thriving jobs market in economies open to the world. For this scenario to be realised, and for unemployment to shrink at all, eurozone governments must first liberate their economies far more aggressively than they show signs of doing. Prospects that the euro will promote structural reforms in the eurozone of the kind we see as indispensable are currently slight. The trend, as we see it — and as Oskar Lafontaine and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the German and French finance ministers driving the eurozone agenda, describe it — points the other way.

The euro-11 governments have demanded much sacrifice from their publics as they squeezed their economies into conformity with the Maastricht criteria. Most have neglected supply-side reforms. These will now be politically tougher to put in place: voters have been told to expect a euro-dividend in jobs, not further painful adjustments and initial job losses. The eurozone is not an "optimal currency area" where labour moves freely between broadly compatible economies. Germany's overall labour costs are four times those in Portugal and more than a third higher than Italy's — and Britain's. Low-cost, high-unemployment countries such as Spain will have every incentive to make the most of these cost differentials.

There will therefore be a temptation, to which Germany and France are already succumbing, to demand tax, social security and wage harmonisation to protect them against "social dumping". This will be severely counter-productive. If Britain were to join monetary union, the risk is that, far from increasing its influence for change, membership would put Britain under irresistible pressure to dismantle this country's hard-won reforms of the past two decades.

A further cause for concern is the eurozone's design faults, notably the insulation of the European Central Bank from political accountability and its exclusive concern with price stability. These increase the risks that a one-size-fits-all monetary policy will be needlessly deflationary.

"Convergence" with stagnant, unreformed economies would be an historic error. So far, Britain and its European partners seem to us to be marching to the sound of different drums. We prefer the British beat, not for narrow nationalistic reasons but because it strikes a more distinctively modern note. We see no gain in being yoked to economic creeds outworn, nor do we think that this would benefit the EU any more than it would benefit Britain.

We would, finally, need to be persuaded on the constitutional issues which, whatever Mr Blair affects to believe, have not been resolved. The importance to democracy of political accountability cannot lightly be dismissed. The EU's democratic deficit, wide enough already, gapes wider still under monetary union.

British politicians, though not British voters, have always been reluctant to acknowledge the political dimensions of the EU. Their continental partners, more realistic, believe that this democratic deficit will be bridged only by a pan-European government. The single currency, as many of them now openly say, requires one.

But such a government of all Europe is not inevitable — particularly if Britain stays out of the eurozone. We see the possibility of a far safer and healthier alternative, one that will keep government close to the governed and be more compatible with an enlarged Union.

Britain's membership of the EU is a settled fact. Outside or inside EMU, it will have powerful political influence. It should use this influence to encourage the EU to work with the grain of Europe's immense diversity. Only thus can the experiment of European Union be compatible with the pull of national loyalties. The cause of European integration is not best served by the notion that all countries must march in lock-step. For historical reasons, some EU countries genuinely desire political integration. They should be able to go ahead, provided that nations not sharing that desire do not have to join them.

Flexibility is the key to harmony and prosperity in Europe. That is the strategic prize which every British voter should keep in mind when an inflexible future is being represented, increasingly and ever more shrilly represented, as an inevitable one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prospects for the police after accusation of racism

From the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales

Sir, I am confident that all police officers will recognise the gravity of the issues dealt with in the Macpherson report (details, February 22 and 23). This organisation speaks on behalf of all officers in England and Wales below the rank of superintendent.

The overwhelming majority of those officers have feelings of deep sadness and regret over the events surrounding the murder of Stephen Lawrence. There has been a tragic miscarriage of justice, due almost entirely to the mistakes made during the murder investigation. In their dealings with the Lawrence family, some officers may have been insensitive. But there can be no justification for a blanket allegation that the police did not care about this murder because the victim was black.

I have no wish to understate the real problems of racism in the police service. However, I cannot accept that the report is right to conclude that the Metropolitan Police (or any other police force in Britain) is riven by "pernicious and institutionalised racism". Sir William Macpherson of Cluny defines this as "the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin". Collective implies that responsibility for this failure applies across the board.

This is grossly unfair. It ignores the work put in day after day by the great majority of police officers who strive to uphold their oath of office, to act without fear or favour towards all members of the community. If there are failings in policies and operational strategies, they are faults of leadership and management among those who take these decisions, be they legislators or chief officers.

The Police Federation accepts that the story of training police officers in race relations is one of good intentions overridden by operational priorities and inadequate resources.

In spite of several working parties and reports that have identified the problems and laid down principles and training programmes, there has been a massive failure to implement agreed criteria.

The self-confidence of the police has been seriously undermined and unless it is restored, and quickly, the long-term consequences for police and the public could be very damaging. Perhaps now the Home Secretary, all chief officers and police authorities will act.

Yours faithfully,
FRED BROUGHTON,
Chairman,
Police Federation of
England and Wales,
15-17 Langley Road,
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6LP.
February 23.

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir, The anti-racist credentials of Sir Paul Condon are beyond dispute. His Metropolitan Police service has a highly creditable record of efforts to eradicate racism from its ranks. Changing such deep-rooted attitudes is normally the work of generations.

To condemn him and his officers now for failing to transform the Metropolitan Police in the relatively short time he has had in his post is surely both ill-considered and unjust.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE T. ROACH,
43 Ripon Way,
Borehamwood,
Hertfordshire WD6 2HY.
February 23.

From Mr Simon Hughes, MP for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, No effort must be spared to eliminate racism from all our public services but, above all, our police. We must be vigilant, however, not to turn accountability into scapegoating (leading article, February 23).

Sir Paul Condon took over the Metropolitan Police a matter of weeks before Stephen Lawrence was killed. If it was racist at that time, the fault must lie chiefly with his predecessors. Since 1993, however much more there is to do, things have significantly improved.

Fingers should not be pointed at successive Metropolitan Police Commissioners without being pointed also at the Metropolitan Police authorities — namely the Home Secretaries. If the last Government had transferred responsibility for the Metropolitan Police away from the Home Office to people directly accountable to Londoners (as Liberal Democrats have always argued and this Government is now doing), racism in the police service would almost certainly have been tackled much more quickly.

The most constructive way forward from this week should entail the most determined effort to recruit black and Asian graduates to our public services, in particular to the police, and a much greater commitment to providing the police with the resources for the personnel and the technology they need to investigate crime in London.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON HUGHES
(Liberal Democrat
London Spokesman),
House of Commons.
February 23.

'Kneejerk' injunction on press

From the Director of the Guild of Editors

Sir, It is little wonder that editors who are usually in fierce competition were united in their condemnation of the Home Secretary's injunction against *The Sunday Telegraph* (reports, February 22).

For years Labour has promised a Freedom of Information Act. After the 1997 election its pledges were strengthened. Such an Act was described as a cornerstone of constitutional reform yet Mr Straw is believed to be in favour of watering down its provisions, particularly with regard to the police (report, January 12).

The media still face threats from the Human Rights Act; organisations are hiding behind the new Data Protection Act, and the Youth Justice Bill could mean a generation vanishing from newspaper pages and TV screens. Mr Straw's injunction was a kneejerk reaction in the direction of secrecy when he should be leaning towards greater openness. So much for fine words.

Yours sincerely,
BOB SATCHWELL
Director, Guild of Editors,
University Centre, Granta Place,
Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1RU.
February 22.

From Dr Kenneth MacRae

Sir, In whose interests was it for *The Sunday Telegraph* to attempt to publish excerpts from Sir William Macpherson's inquiry on Sunday when the report of the inquiry is to be published in full on Wednesday, once the interested parties, the Lawrence family and the Metropolitan Police have had an opportunity to read it in its entirety? *The Sunday Telegraph's*, of course.

This, alas, is yet another example of the press acting in its own selfish commercial interest, behaving more as part of the entertainment industry than a responsible guardian of the public interest. The almost universal support for *The Sunday Telegraph's* actions elsewhere in the press clearly suggest that the interests of those affected by this inquiry are regarded as secondary to increased sales of newspapers.

A free press is a fundamental part of a free society, and it is sad to see such irresponsible behaviour by one newspaper being supported by so many others.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MacRAE,
5 Northcroft Terrace, W13 9SP.
February 22.

Jenkins and Turkey

From Mr Altemur Kiliç

Sir, As a long-time reader of *The Times* and of Mr Simon Jenkins, I am aware of his rather biting and sarcastic style and sense of humour.

I therefore can discern that the main target of his column on February 19 was Mr Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and not Turkey and the Turkish people. But please realise that many of my sensitive compatriots will take his article of February 19, "The Kurd instinct", as an attack on Turks and Turkey (see also letter, February 22).

It is all right for Mr Jenkins to attack Western hypocrisy over Kosovo, but he is ill-advised to do so in relation to Turkey at a very sensitive time for our country, even though the same hypocrisy is being shown towards the Kurdish problem after the capture of a terrorist who has the blood of more than 30,000 Turks and Kurds on his hands.

Yours sincerely,
ALTEMUR KILIC
(Columnist, *Türkiye*),
Dogru Muvakkit Sokah,
No 23 Emirgan,
Istanbul 80850.
February 22.

White Paper waffle

From Field Marshal Lord Carver

Sir, I have now read the Government's White Paper, *Modernising Parliament: Reforming the House of Lords*. I cannot recall ever having read a paper which repeated itself so often and said so little in so many words.

I suggest that some literary or educational establishment should offer a prize for a version which says all that is essential to the paper in the shortest span.

The Stationery Office should then cost it in comparison with the 51 pages of the White Paper's glossy waffle for which they charge £8.20.

Yours truly,
CARVER,
House of Lords.
February 19.

Still fizzing

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, Contrary to your Weekend item, "The drinks that time forgot — Sodastream" (February 20), mine is still going strong. I won it from the maker in a slogan competition a decade ago, and it replaced the one I had acquired at a jumble sale. In the summer there is nothing better than a personally over-fizzed, bright-green, ice-cold "Bertie's [sugar-free regrettably] Limeade concentrate".

Genetically unmodified and free from BSE, CJD, listeria, *E.coli* and salmonella, my Sodastream still has its old spot in our new kitchen.

Yours etc,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View, Bushey Heath,
Hertfordshire WD2 3QZ.
February 20.

Arsenal's 'fair play'

From Mr Clive Hughes

Sir, Mr Simon Carne (letter, February 17) is incorrect in stating that a referee may not stop a game for unsporting behaviour.

Law 12 of the *Laws of the Game* states that "a player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if ... he is guilty of unsporting behaviour". The same law also explains that an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any offence where play is stopped to caution a player.

There was no need, therefore, for the referee of the February 13 match between Arsenal and Sheffield United to have waited until the ball was out of play (ie, in the net) before stopping the game.

If he had acted immediately then the debate regarding "fair play" need never have started.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE HUGHES,
57 Blaen Cwm,
Llandudno,
Conwy LL30 1LE.
clivehughes@arsenalfc.net
February 17.

Return of the Marbles

From Mr G. A. Lemos

Sir, I applaud Mr Michael Goldman's suggestion (letter, February 20) that high-quality facsimiles of the Elgin Marbles should be juxtaposed with the originals and the Greeks invited to select between them, from a distance of five metres. However, I propose that Greek schoolchildren should make the choice, rather than "senior representatives of the Greek Government".

The pieces chosen should then be exhibited at the British School of Archaeology in Athens, as a deserved tribute to the scholars who have contributed so much to the Greek sense of cultural identity. It would only remain for copies to be made of the pieces still in Athens and for the trustees of the British Museum to choose between them.

Thus you would get truly "cultural" Olympics, in 2004, in which I would place my drachmas (or euros by then) on the Greek schoolchildren.

Yours truly,
G. A. LEMOS,
(Member, British Greek
Cultural Friendship Association),
8 Orchard Court,
Portman Square, W1H 9PA.
marbles@parthenon.demon.co.uk

From Mr David Townley

Sir, Mr Alf Lomas, MEP (letter, February 20), who suggests that your leading article of February 16 contained the "usual hoary old nationalistic arguments", is guilty of calling the kettle black.

What is the Greek demand for the return of the Elgin Marbles other than nationalistic? As an enthusiastic supporter of the European state, Greece should be indifferent to where in Europe her treasures rest.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TOWNLEY,
92 Fir Tree Road,
Banstead, Surrey SM7 1NQ.
February 20.

A victory for rugby

From Mr John Willcox-Jones

Sir, The Scots now believe they should have beaten the English, although the English do not think they beat the Scots well enough.

The Welsh nearly beat the Irish, who feel they should also have beaten the French (reports, Sport, February 22). Meanwhile the French just smile — at least for a few more weekends.

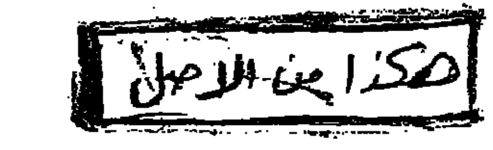
Raw nationalism prevails with millions following the battles. There are many sore heads the following day, but nobody gets killed — the beauty of the Five Nations is, thank goodness, well and truly with us again.

Now bring on the Italians!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILLCOX-JONES,
La Haye,
Reading Road, Cholsey,
Oxfordshire OX10 9HG.
100106.3601@compuserve.com
February 21.

Business letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 23: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an Audience of The Queen this evening.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this evening attended a Reception for the LEPRA 75th Anniversary "Quest for Dignity" art competition at the Royal Geographical Society, London, and was received by Sir Christian Bonington (President of LEPRA).

The Lady Elton has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

February 23: The Duke of Edinburgh, President, this morning, Chaired an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Central Council of Physical Recreation at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness today attended the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee Lunch at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 23: Mrs Michael Gordon Lennox has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 23: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, today visited 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment whilst on exercise on *Salisbury* Plain.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 23: The Duke of York attended a reception for the NSPCC at St James's Palace, London SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 23: The Prince Edward, Patron, London Mozart Players, this evening held a Concert and Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

February 23: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, this morning attended the launch of Victim Support's Silver Jubilee, Cranmer House, 39 Brixton Road, Brixton, London.

Her Royal Highness today attended the National Sporting Club's Calcutta Cup Luncheon at the Café Royal, Regent Street, Westminster, London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 23: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Friends of the Gibraltar Heritage Society, this evening attended the Annual Meeting and Reception at the Imperial War Museum, London SE1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 23: The Duke of Kent, Trustee, National Museum of Science and Industry, this morning attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 23: Princess Alexandra, President, this morning visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop at 244 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, London.

Her Royal Highness, Deputy President, this afternoon received Mr Michael Whitlam upon relinquishing his appointment as Director-General of the British Red Cross Society.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend *Symphony 21*, a celebration in music and dance of the Commonwealth Institute's vision for the 21st century, Kensington High Street, London W8, at 2.50.

The Prince of Wales, president, The Prince's Trust, will attend the Eddie Izzard show, *Dressed To Kill*, Wembley Arena, at 7.40.

Prince Edward will attend the annual dinner of the Body of Yeoman Warders of Her Majesty's Royal Palace & Fortress the Tower of London, at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' Headquarters, HM Tower of London, at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, will attend the launch of the Bobby Scheme at the Banqueting Suite, Surrey County Cricket Club, The Oval, London SE11, at 12.30: and as patron, Benenden 75th anniversary ball, will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 6.30.

Princess Alexandra will commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of the Cassel Hospital's Families Centre, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey, at 11.30, will inaugurate an exhibition of the work of *Augustus John at Olympia*, London at 4.00: and will attend a dinner in aid of Children with Special Needs in Egypt, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London W1, at 7.15.

Dinner

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

*Lord Archer of Weston-super-*Mare and Mr Ken Livingstone, MP, were the speakers at a debate at the annual dinner of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held yesterday at Grosvenor House. Mr Peter Hobday presided at the debate and Mr Richard Lay, president of the institution, was the host.

Meeting

Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society

The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society, attended the annual meeting of the society held last night at the Imperial War Museum. Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, chairman, presided.

Sir Nigel catches up with his past

By Alan Hamilton

IT IS a fine definition among Whitehall mandarins as to whether the Second Permanent Secretary (Finance) at the Treasury outranks the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Administrative Affairs. But not to worry: both were knighted by the Queen yesterday, and both for the second time.

Sir Humphrey Appleby, the pivotal Machiavelli of the BBC series *Yes, Minister*, has been a knight for years. Yesterday fiction became fact when his true persona, the actor Nigel Hawthorne, was dubbed at Buckingham Palace for services to television, film and theatre.

Sir Nigel, 70, said afterwards that he had felt nervous at the ceremony but so, he thought, had the Queen. Still, he had felt himself in good company. "The chap before me and the chap after me were both senior civil servants, so I really felt quite at home."

He was preceded in the queue for the royal sword in the Palace ballroom by Sir Nigel Wicks, a real-life Treasury mandarin who was being upgraded from Knight Commander of the Bath to Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, a decoration which logically should carry the unfortunate suffix KGB, but in fact affords the wearer the initials GCB.

As he had his photograph taken in the Palace courtyard, Sir Nigel said: "It is a constant surprise to me that I have been so honoured, but that is not to say I don't enjoy it."

For all his protestations of stage fright, Sir Nigel appeared to feel in command of yesterday's performance, given that, on his walk from the Grand Entrance to the Palace Ballroom, he passed at least two portraits of himself in another acclaimed role, that of King George III. "I thought one of them captured me rather well, the other less so," the actor remarked puckishly.

How did it feel to be knighted in his own right? "Sir Humphrey was already knighted, so that was nice. I also played King George III, but I didn't get crowned today." Sir Nigel also confessed that being knighted was a good deal less stressful than waiting to hear if one had won an Oscar. "The Academy Awards are very disconcerting because you are in competition. This, on the other hand, is an awards ceremony among friends, because you know you've already got it."

Also knighted yesterday was Frank Williams, owner of the Williams Formula One team, for services to motor racing. Angus Fraser, the Middlesex and England seam bowler, received his MBE insignia for services to cricket.

CHRIS HARRIS

Sir Nigel with the insignia of his knighthood

Birthdays today

Professor George Bain, former Principal, London Business School, 60; *Judge Inge Bernstein*, 68; *Professor* E. Boyland, biochemist, 94; Mr Brian Close, cricketer, 68; Dr Lionel Dakers, former Director, Royal School of Church Music, 75; Mr Reginald Freeson, former MP, 73; Professor G.J.M. Gazdar, FBA, computational linguist, 49; Mr Richard Hamilton, painter, 77; Lord Hazlerigg, 89; Major-General David Houston, Lord-Lieutenant of *Sutherland*, 70; Mr Paul Jones, singer and actor, 57; Miss Pat Kirkwood, actress, 78; Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, 80; Mr David Langdon, cartoonist and illustrator, 85; Mr Denis Law, footballer, 59; Mr Anthony Mayer, chief executive, Housing Corporation, 53; Lord Melchett, 51; the Marquess of Normanby 45; Admiral Sir William Pillar, 75; M Alain Prost, racing driver, 44; Mr Derek Randall, cricketer, 48; the Rev Baroness Richardson of Calow, 61; Sir Frank Rogers, a director, Telegraph Group, 79; Mr Dennis Waterman, actor, 51; Sir Jerry Wiggin, former MP, 62.

Luncheons

Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

The Duke of Edinburgh was present at the annual luncheon of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee held yesterday at the *Savoy Hotel. The Earl of Selborne*, FRS, president of the committee, was in the chair. Sir Aaron Klug, PRS, was the guest of honour. Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Minister for Science, Lord Hoyle and Sir Michael Spicer, MP, chairman, attended. Among others present were:

The Earl of Halsbury, FRS, the Earl of Shannon, the Earl of Ilchester, Viscount Mersey, Lord Gregson, Baroness Lockwood, Lord Morris of Manchester, Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, Professor Sir Robert May, FRS, Sir David Davies and Sir Peter Williams.

National Sporting Club

The Princess Royal was the royal guest of honour at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Lawrence Dallaglio and Mr Rob Wainwright were guests of honour. Mr David Willis, chairman of the club, presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Catherine I, Empress of Russia 1725-27, Dorpat, Estonia, 1684; Wilhelm Grimm, historian and folklore collector, Hanau, Germany, 1786.

DEATHS: Henry Cavendish, physicist and chemist, London, 1810; Thomas Bowdler, self-appointed Shakespearean censor, Swansea, 1825.

Memorial service

Mr Paul McKee

A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life and work of Mr Paul McKee, former Deputy Chief Executive of ITN and Deputy Managing Director of Yorkshire *Television*, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated and Sir Paul Fox read the lesson.

Mr John McKee, brother, Mr David Butler, FBA, Mr Stewart Purvis, chief executive, ITN, and Mr Peter Snow gave addresses. Among others present were:

Ms Chris McKee (sister), Mr and Mrs Terry Rowley, Mr and Mrs Colin Garvey, Mr and Mrs John Francis and Mr and Mrs Gowe Cowell (brothers-in-law and sisters), Mr John McKee (sister-in-law), Ms Liz Lorimar, Mr Thomas McKee, Mr Edward McKee, Ms Georgia McKee, Ms Angela Andrasey and other members of the family.

Mr Richard Tait (Editor-in-Chief, ITN) with Mr Nigel Dacre (Editor, ITN News on ITV) and other members of staff; Mr Richard Gregory (managing director, Yorkshire Television) and other members of staff; Mr Michael Fay and Mr Peter Rogers (ITC).

Lady Fox, Sir Alastair Burnet, Mrs Peter Snow, Mr Richard Whiteley, Mr Martyn Lewis, Mr and Mrs Peter Sissons, Mr Jon Snow, *Mr Alastair Stewart*, Mr Michael Jermey, Mr Richard Butler, Mr Robert Hargreaves, Mr David Glencross, Mr Stephen Wright, Mr Tom Phillips, Mr Norman Rees, Mr David Patrick, Ms Elizabeth McCall, Mr Huw Roberts, Professor Bob Worcester, Ms Angela Frier, Mr Phil Bye, Mr Mike Morris, Professor Richard Rose, FBA, Mr Nigel Ryan Mr Glyn Mathias, Ms Jane Corbin, Mr Michael Crick, Mrs E Garvey, Mrs P Kennedy and many other friends and former colleagues.

Institute of Barristers Clerks

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Barristers Clerks was held on Monday, February 22, at The College of Law, Chancery Lane, London. Mr David Goddard was elected chairman in succession to Mr Stephen Graham at the end of his term of office. Members of the Institute recorded their thanks to Mr Graham for the contribution that he made whilst chairman.

University news

Royal Holloway, University of London

Celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Founding of Bedford College continue with a series of public lectures/receptions. Main Lecture Theatre, Founder's Building, Egham. February 25 - Stevenson Lecture, Professor Steven Rose, Open University, 'Biology & Human Freedom', 6pm; March 2 - Hayes Robinson Lecture, Professor Olwen Hufton, Oxford, 'Whatever Happened to the History of the Nun?', 5.30pm; March 24 - Lakeman Lecture, Lord Plant of Highfield, Oxford, 'Electoral Reform Now', 5.30pm. Celebratory Programmes/lecture tickets from Marta Baker, External Relations, RHBNC, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX (tel: 01784 443004).

University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge will *award honorary degrees to the* following:

A.S. Byatt, author; Dr Jürgen Habermas, philosopher and social theorist; Dr Li Ka-Shing, Chairman of Cheung Kong Ltd; Dr César Milstein, winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine; Dr Gordon Moore, co-founder of Intel Corporation; Mme Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the Hon Miriam Rothschild, entomologist; the Right Rev Desmond Tutu, Emeritus Archbishop of Capetown and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize; Sir Colin St John Wilson, architect of the new British Library.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.A. Ayton and Miss P.E. Mead
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Harry Ayton, of Consett, Co Durham, and Philippa, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Mead, of Havant, Hampshire.

Mr O.B. Benkert and Miss S.L. Holliday
The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Benkert, of Esher, Surrey, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Holliday, of Ealing, London.

Mr W. Bunting and Miss Y. Mori
The engagement is announced between Walter, only son of Mr and Mrs Walter Bunting, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, and Yukari, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Takehiko Mori, of Chikusa-Ku, Nagoya, Japan.

Mr G.R.S. Chapman and Miss A. Venema
The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr Peter Chapman and the late Mrs Chapman, of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Pieter Venema, of Zurich, Switzerland.

Mr S.J. Forrest and Miss K.G. Petrie
The engagement is announced between Samuel, son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Forrest, of Tunbridge Wells, and Katharine Georgina, daughter of Mr Christopher Petrie, of Burnham-on-Crouch, and Dr Rosemary Winteringham, of Sutton, Surrey.

Mr A.R.J. Gibson and Miss K.J. Richards
The engagement is announced between Alex, only son of Mr and Mrs Christian Gibson, of Bookham, Surrey, and Kirsty, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Richards, of Horsham, West Sussex.

Mr R.D. Gullan-Whur and Miss S.V. Haryott
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Jeremy and Dr Margaret Gullan-Whur, of Heacham, Norfolk, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Haryott, of Paley Street, Berkshire.

Mr D.S.N. Hall and Miss S.L. Keddie
The engagement is announced between Duncan, elder son of Mrs Hall and the late Mr Mickey Hall, of Formby, Liverpool, and Sarah Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham S. Keddie, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Mr J.J. Keon and Miss C.O. Harris
The engagement is announced between Joseph, son of Mrs Margaret Keon, of Marin County, California, USA, and Clare Olivia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Harris, of Bathford, Bath.

Mr A.D. Le Cornu and Miss Z.G. Wall
The engagement is announced between Aaron, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Le Cornu, of St Brelade, Jersey, and Zoë, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Neal, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Mr C.W. Pertwee and Miss J.M. Peppitt
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roger Pertwee, of Rayne, Essex, and Josephine, only daughter of Mr James Peppitt, of Bale, Norfolk, and the late Mrs Joanna Peppitt.

Mr D.S. Petty and Miss E.F. Home
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of the Revd and Mrs Stuart Petty, of Farnham, Surrey, and Emily, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gospatric Home, of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A.L.A. Plowden-Wardlaw and Miss K.E. Westdal
The engagement is announced between Louis, son of Mrs M Plowden-Wardlaw, of Chiswick, London, and the late Mr J.C. Plowden-Wardlaw, and Kirsten *Elaine* Westdal, of London, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.S. Westdal, of Winnipeg, Canada.

Mr S.J. Rutherfoord and Dr E.E. Carlyon
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mrs Sheila Rutherfoord and the late Mr John Rutherfoord, of Penzance, and Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Carlyon, of Truro, Cornwall.

Mr A.D. Staples and Miss C.J. Sharman
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr John Staples, of Bolney, West Sussex, and Mrs Morag Staples, of Ashurst, West Sussex, and Catherine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sharman, of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Mr A. Stonely and Miss T. Lond-Caulk
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Ron Stonely, of Old Malden, Surrey, and Tina, daughter of Mrs Anita Lond-Caulk, of Sutton, Surrey.

Mr T.W. Stubbs and Miss F.C. Rees-Webbe
The engagement is announced between Toby, elder son of Mr and Mrs Tim Stubbs, of Bethersden, Kent, and Fiona, eldest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Robin Rees-Webbe and the late Mrs Rees-Webbe, of Weston Lullingfields, Shropshire.

Mr T.R. Vernon and Miss J.L. Goodey
The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Mr and Mrs Tim Vernon, of Beverley, East Yorkshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jim Goodey, of Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Lincoln's Inn

Professor Hugh Beale of Warwick University and Dr Hans Christian Krüger, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, are to become Honorary Benchers of Lincoln's Inn.

Legal retirement

Judge Slack retires from the South Eastern Circuit bench on Friday.



PERSONAL COLUMN

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FAX: 0171 481 9313

As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we are were made; he remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103.13-14 (NRSV).

BIRTHS

AYRE - On 9th February 1999 to Graham and Trudy (née Brady), a much loved son and brother for James, William Alexander.

BARTY-KING - On 20th February 1999, to Diana (née Loewenthal) and Daniel, a son, Joe Baxter.

BATCHELOR - On February 18th to Geraldine (née Flatley) and Alex, a son, Joseph Patrick William, brother for Emily and Phoebe.

BONNARD - On February 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Sanja and Pierric, a son, Milo, a brother for Emma.

COLEMAN - On 16th February 1999, to Alison (née Bray) and Tom Coleman, a son, Andrew Thomas, cousin to Edward.

COLEMAN - On 15th February 1999, to Emma (née Richards) and Harry Coleman, a son, Edward Harry, cousin to Andrew.

COVELL - On February 22nd 1999, to Nina (née Lervy) and Alex, a son, Charles Alexander Edward.

EDMONDS - On 10th February 1999, in Vancouver, Canada, to Jacquetta (née Foster) and Nicholas, a son, Cristian Thomas.

EJI MOFOR - On February 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Delove and Sebastian, a son, Alexander.

ENGLISH - On February 12th, to Frances (née Pyrah) and William, a daughter, Madeleine Elizabeth Havers, a sister for Eleanor and Frederick.

ERICKSON - On February 19th at The Portland *Hospital*, to *Megan Stone* and Brad Erickson, a daughter, Brynn Morgan, a sister for Ryley.

FORD - On 14th February, to Elizabeth (née Tremaine) and Richard, a daughter, Georgina Lucy.

GRUNDMAN - On February 12th at The Portland *Hospital*, to Stacey (née Beal) and Marc, a daughter, Sarah Natalie, a sister for Hannah.

HOLLEY - On February 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Annabel and Simon, a daughter, Grace, a sister for Alex, John and Charlie.

JOHNSON - On February 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Michele and William, a son, Luke Alexander and a daughter, Emma Louise.

KERRIGAN - On February 16th 1999 to Alison (née Durkin) and Chris, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, a sister for Katherine and Lucy.

LENNARD - On February 17th 1999 to Ginny (née Hawksley) and Mitchel, a son Archie Dickens Henry.

SALAMON - On February 23rd 1999 in Tokyo, to Sacha and Jamie, a daughter, Sarina. Grandparents and great-grandparents are delighted.

SIMPSON - On Wednesday 17th February 1999, to Phillipa (née Rumble) and James, a son, William James Richard.

TALLY - On February 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Teresa Andre and Mark, a son, Kendall Andre Tally, 8lbs 14oz.

DEATHS

BARKER - Joan Mary (Dr Hands) died peacefully at home on 15th February 1999, aged 91. Widow of John Barker CBE and much loved mother of Jane and Carol.

BIRD - Commander John Samuel died on Friday 19th February after a long illness aged 76 in Cascais, Portugal. Only child of Sir James Bird, founder of Supermarine before the war which was taken over by Vickers and manufacturer of the Supermarine Spitfire Mark XII. He was a test pilot in India with the Fleet Air Arm during the War and test pilot with Vickers thereafter. He was resident in Portugal for over twenty five years and was well-known for breeding champion Pekinese which he showed in Portugal as well as abroad. He was cremated in Lisbon. He is survived by his son James proprietor of a helicopter company in Texas USA and three grandchildren.

BURY - On February 20th 1999, John Orbell of Blackditch Farm, Stanton Harcourt, Oxford. Beloved husband of Mary, father of Peter, David and Josephine, grandfather of James, Justin, Victoria, Jonathon, Elizabeth, Julian, Katie, Jessica, Fiona and Robert. Funeral service at St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt on Saturday February 27th at 2 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired, to Cancer Research or Alzheimers Research to be shared c/o Greens Funeral Services, 21 High Street, Eynsham, Witney, Oxon. OX8 1HE

CANTLIE - (née Gill). Carol Cantlie, on 20th February in Winchester, of unforseen complications. Funeral 3.00pm, 2nd March, at All Saints, East Meon, Hampshire. Flowers to Roland Son and Vincent, The Square, Petersfield.

COOPER - Lionel aged 88 years. Peacefully in hospital on 20th February Cremation on Friday 26th February Golders Green Crematorium at 12.45 pm.

DAURIS - Grace Helena, peacefully at home on 21st February, aged 92 years. Beloved mother of Colin and grandmother of James and Stephen. Family funeral 1st March. Service of Thanksgiving 3.00pm, Wednesday, 3rd March, St Mary's, Chigwell. No flowers, please. Donations if desired to St Clare *Hospice, Hastingwood*, Essex, CM17 9JX.

DAWSON-GROVE - On 20th February 1999, peacefully in hospital, Diana, born in Australia, lived many years in Hong Kong and France and recently in Wimbledon. Beloved mother of Jan and Ann and grandmother of Andrew, Carolyn and Jackie. Funeral Service Monday 1st March 1999, 1.30pm at St Mary's Church, Merton Park, SW19 followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St George's Hospital Special Trustees, c/o Fredk W Paine, 26 Crown Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 5BL. 0181 542 1214.

DEAN - On February 22nd, peacefully at Fordingbridge Hospital Dr. Leonard Charlton Dean, M.B.E., M.C., J.P., M.B.B.S., aged 76 years. Ex 1st Gurkha Rifles. Dearly loved husband of Brenda. Funeral Service at Ringwood Parish Church on Thursday, March 4th at 3.00 pm followed by cremation at Bournemouth. No flowers please at his request. Donations for Gurkha Welfare Trust may be sent to Barrow Bros., 2 Nursery Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 1NG.

FULLER - Gwyneth Marjorie (née Tunnicliffe) M.A. (CANTAB), on February 22nd 1999 at home, Grand Avenue, West Worthing, West Sussex in her 91st year. Beloved widow of William Vickery Fuller (ex Colonial Service). Deeply regretted by her nieces and nephews, family and friends. Funeral service, 12.20pm on Tuesday March 2nd at Worthing Crematorium. Inquiries to H D. Tribe Ltd 01903 234516

GOING - Charles Hardinge aged 78 years. Countryman and Doctor. Peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of Muriel, proud father and grandfather. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Stebbing at 2.30 pm on Tuesday March 2nd 1999. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Henry Doubleday Research Association. Further enquiries to Michael J. Walsh, Stebbing, (01371) 856377.

GREEN - (Née Lister) Diana Jennie Margaret M.B B.S. of cancer valiantly fought, much loved wife of Richard and adored mother of Penny and Charles. Funeral Service on Monday 1st March at 2pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Hampton, followed by cremation at South West Middlesex Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations in her memory to Cancer Research c/o G.S Keates, 49 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1NH

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

GRUBB - On 22nd February 1999, at Anley Hall N.H. Settle, North Yorkshire, at rest after a long illness. Nancy Mary aged 96 years. Funeral Service at the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, Wray, nr. Lancaster on Friday 26th February at 12 noon followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Christian Aid may be left in the church or c/o Brown & Whittaker, 39 Main Street, Ingleton, LA6 3EH (015242) 41293. A memorial service will take place at the Parish Church of St Laurence, Downton, Wilts, on 9th March at 11am.

HARVEY - Diana Mary. Peacefully on 19th February 1999, aged 73, at Kingston Hospital, Surrey, after a short illness. Much loved wife of the late Douglas and mother of Ian, Peter and Tim. Funeral at St James's *Church, Church Lane*, Birdham, near Chichester, West Sussex on Friday 5th March at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations welcomed to Lymphoma Research Trust, c/o BNLI, The CRC and UCL Cancer Trials Centre, Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AA.

LANDER - Fay Marjorie (née Pinkerton). Unexpectedly, yet peacefully, on February 16th 1999. Adored wife of Kenneth (deceased). The best Mummy in the world to Megan and Emily. Doting grandmother to Alexander. She will be deeply missed by all whose lives she touched. Funeral *Service on Monday March* 1st 11.30 am at Putney Vale Crematorium, followed by a Memorial Service to celebrate Fay's life at 12.30pm at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea. Flowers to B. & G. and Son, tel: (0171) 385-7625.

LAWRENCE - On February 20th Kathleen Mona of Beckenham, retired Civil Servant, widow of John Albert and godmother of John Andrew Cracknell. Missed and dearly loved by all. Service at Beckenham Crematorium on Friday February 26th at 12.30 pm. Enquiries to Francis Chappell & Sons, (0181) 650-0304.

LEAKE - On February 21st 1999, peacefully at home, Anne Barkley, aged 88 years, of Ashwicken. Funeral service and interment at All Saints Church, Ashwicken on Saturday February 27th at 2pm. Family flowers only.

LISTER - Doctor Diana. See Green.

LOVE - Constance Mary (née Duder) A.R.C.M., widow of J.H.A. Love, on 23rd February peacefully in her sleep at The Knoll, Yeovil, in her 90th year. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Remembered especially for her musical gifts and her teaching of the young. Cremation private at her own request. Service of Thanksgiving at North Perrott at a later date.

LYLE - Dr Leonard Gordon on February 22nd in his 89th year following a severe stroke. Dearly loved by his wife Peggy and his daughters Mary and Jane and loving grandfather to Charles, Edward, James, Amelia and Anna-Marie. He will be greatly miss by all his family and friends. Private family cremation but memorial service to celebrate his life at 3.00pm on Thursday 11th March at St Mary's Church, Shortlands, Kent. Donations if desired to St Mary's Shortlands PCC. All enquiries to H Copeland & Son, 9 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 5NT. Tel 0181 650 2295.

MARSDEN - Janet, peacefully, on 20th February, after a short illness. Wife of the late John Cooper (Jack) Marsden. Funeral Service at St Marys Church, Laverstoke, Whitchurch, Hampshire, on Tuesday 2nd March, at 2 pm. Flowers or donations for Laverstoke Church to Howe & Son, Bear Hill, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5QA. (01635) 298303.

MATTHEWS - Eileen on 20th February peacefully at Kingston Hospital in her 88th year. Widow of Mervyn and mother of Tina and Tony, grandmother of Guy, Clare and Rowland and great-grandmother of Emma. Funeral Service at St Joseph's R.C. Church, *Roehampton at 10 am on* Monday 1st March. Family flowers only.

MOUNSEY - John Patrick David - Physician. On Sunday 21st February 1999, peacefully at home. Husband of the late Sallie, and dearly loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at The Parish Church of St. Mary The Virgin, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire, on Monday 1st March 1999 at 11.30 am followed by interment. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation c/o and all further enquiries to Grimes & Goscombe Funeral Services, Chipping Manor, The Chipping, Wotton under Edge, Glos. GL12 7AD.

ODDIE - Romola peacefully at home on 18th February 1999, aged 85. Mother of Christopher and Hugh, grandmother of Thomas, Matthew, Jane, Melissa and Lara. Funeral Service 3.00pm Friday 26th February at St Benets Church, Cambridge.

OSBORNE-YOUNG - Kenneth Henry Osborne-Young DFC peacefully in hospital on February 20th aged 78 years. Beloved husband of Joan and loving father of Fenella, Andrew, Richard and William and grandfather of Milo. Funeral Service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Rock, Worcestershire at 3 pm Monday March 1st. Family flowers only but if desired donations to The Hereford Dialysis Centre, Beech Park, Tillington Road, Hereford HR4 9QJ.

PHELPS - Lawrence, most dearly loved husband of Gillian Weir Phelps, in Boston 22nd *February*.

REDSHAW - (née Jarrold) On 21st February, Mary Elizabeth Redshaw peacefully at home, dearly beloved widow of Seymour, mother of David, John and Michael. Funeral at St Mary and St Chad's Church, Brewood, *on* February 27th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

ROBERTS - On February 22nd Doctor Charles Roberts MBBS, aged 76. Husband of Margaret, father of Richard and Liz and grandfather of five. Beloved by us all. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, Hitchin on Monday 1st March at 2.30pm. No flowers please. Donations for Ward 9A Lister Hospital, made payable to N.M. Maxwell c/o Austins Funeral Service, 96 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1NQ. Tel 01462 438422.

RUTHERFORD - *Nora Mescal* (née Borrett). Peacefully on February 20th. Beloved widow of Sandy, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Requiem Mass, 9.30am, Thursday February 25th at Austin Friars School, Stanwix, Carlisle followed by private interment at Bowden. R.I.P.

SALTER - Peter Hamilton died peacefully on 19th February at Princess Alice Hospice after a long illness. Beloved husband of Mary, father of Janice and Julie and grandfather of Peter, Stephen and Martine. Funeral Service at Kingston Crematorium on 2nd March at 3.00pm. Family flowers only *please. Donations to The* Princess Alice Hospice, Esher. Tel 01372 468811.

SANDERS - On 22nd February 1999 peacefully in hospital after a short illness Sidney Stephen Knill (Sandy) aged 86 years of East Knoyle. Much loved by all his family. Funeral Service at *Salisbury Crematorium on* Tuesday 2nd March at 2.20pm. By request family flowers only. If desired donations for Salisbury Hospital Intensive Care Unit may be sent c/o Hill & Son, Funeral Directors, Water Street, Mere, BA12 6DZ, tel: 01747 860361.

SANDFORD - Vyvyan. On 21st February, aged 65, after a short illness contracted soon after moving from Newbury to Farningham. Funeral at Church of St Peter and St Paul, Farningham, Kent at 2.30pm on Thursday, 4th March. Donations to The Lions Hospice, Gravesend c/o Leverton Funeral Services, Dartford (01322 225216).

SCOTT - Dr Ridley (retired G.P.) of Wall, Northumberland passed away peacefully on 19th February in Freeman Hospital, Newcastle. A beloved husband of the late Joyce Clayburn and Ursula Middleton, a much loved father of Virginia and the late Rosemary and a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather of all the family. Cremation to take place at the West Road Crematorium, Newcastle upon Tyne on Thursday 25th February at 10.00am followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Georges Church, Wall, Northumberland at 12.30pm.

SOKOLOW - Stephen Edward, peacefully in hospital on 18th February 1999, aged 75. Beloved father of Natasha, Nicholas and Michael. Loving grandfather to Lodovico, Piero, Isabella and Alexander. Private cremation took place on 23rd February.

TAYLOR - *Joshua Kenneth* Taylor. Peacefully at home on Sunday 21st February 1999, aged 88 years. Beloved husband of Muriel, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Little Abington on Wednesday 3rd March at 2 pm for family and close friends. Family flowers only, please.

THOMPSON - Enid Mary née Barrat, aged 91. Died peacefully on Saturday 20th February 1999. Beloved wife of Ralph Noel for 61 years. Loved mother of Rosalind and Roger, fondly remembered Grandmother. Cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead on Friday 26th February at 11.00am. Family flowers only, donations to Dr Barnardo's. Enquiries to Andrew Holmes & Son on 0181 391 2400.

TURNER - Jessie Morrill "Molly" (née Roberts) on February 23rd peacefully at Cowes after years of loving care. Widow of Robert H. Turner, formerly of Greyfriars, Hog's Back, Guildford and of Henfield, Sussex. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Memorial Service at 2.30pm on Wednesday May 5th at St Nicholas Church, Compton, near Guildford. Donations if wished to Injured Jockeys Fund, Newmarket c/o F.L. Lloyd Funeral Directors, Bridge Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7DT.

VICKERSTAFFE - John on 18th February 1999 at Maidstone aged 57 years. Deeply loved and greatly missed. Funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium, Maidstone on 2nd March at 4 pm. Family flowers only please. Enquiries and donations if desired for the Coronary Care Unit at Maidstone Hospital (payable to Charge Nurse Holland) to Sears Funeral Service, 3 Fountain Lane, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9AT. (01622) 725035

WATTS - On February 22nd 1999 Margaret CBE aged 87 fully prepared and *ready to go. Devoted* friend of Elizabeth Iorwerth Jones, much loved sister of Norah and Aunt of her family. Much loved Aunt of Richard Meade and his family, and Grandmother of David, Stuart and Patrick Macnaghten. Private cremation Aldershot at 11.00am on 26th February. Donations if desired to the Marine Society, 20 Lambeth Road, London.

WAUGH - Thomas Alexander (Tom) of Mill Close, Burwell, formerly of Sefton Lodge, Newmarket, passed away in the West Suffolk Hospital on Monday 22nd February 1999 aged 83 years. A much loved husband of Isobel. Funeral Service at St Agnes Church, Newmarket on Monday March 1st at 3pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please.

WHARTON - Winefride on February 18th peacefully at Worthing Hospital, born February 18th 1911, Auckland, New Zealand. Dame Commander of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem. Head Teacher *retired of St* Mary's Catholic School, Worthing. Past President of West Sussex Association of Head Teachers. Sister of the late Dom W.F.X. Wharton C.R.L., late Captain H.P. Wharton, Joseph Denis Wharton. Requiem Mass at 10 am on Tuesday March 2nd 1999 at St Mary of the Angels Church, Worthing. Enquiries to Dillistone Funeral Service, 191 South Farm Road, Worthing, tel: (01903) 200835.

WILLETTS - Ronald Frederick, Emeritus Professor of Greek University of Birmingham, died 19th February 1999. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Service and cremation at Lodge Hill Crematorium on Tuesday 9th March at 1 pm. Family flowers only.

OBITUARIES

KATHLEEN NOTT

Kathleen Nott, critic, novelist and poet, died on February 20 aged 94. She was born on February 19, 1905.

Although she published both poetry and novels, it is perhaps for her critical and philosophical works that Kathleen Nott will be principally remembered. Her training at Oxford had been in philosophy, and it was in analytical rather than creative literature that her severely rational mind found its best expression.

Kathleen Nott always knew exactly what she wanted to say, and was notable for her robust attacks on ideas with which she felt herself to be in fundamental conflict. Her most full-blooded and best-known work of this type was *The Emperor's Clothes* (1954), in which she attacked what she saw as the religious "dogmatic orthodoxy" of T. S. Eliot, Graham Greene, C. S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers.

True, she could be as dogmatic as the dogmas she attacked, and a contemporary reviewer of *The Emperor's Clothes* complained: "Miss Nott would be more persuasive if she were not so crotchety."

But this crotchetiness was of a piece with her intellectual being. There was something essentially masculine and combative about her mind. And reviewers of her verse always seemed to find themselves remarking on its "muscular" qualities.

Kathleen Cecilia Nott was born in South London, though she always liked to stress the Celtic component of her parentage: "one half Cornish, the other Irish". She was educated at Mary Datchelor School, London, and King's College London, which she left after a short period to take up an Open Exhibition at Somerville College, Oxford.

The scholarship was in English literature, but with the stubbornness which was to characterise her later life she decided that there was no point in reading the subject. Philosophy appealed far more to the scientific humanism of her mental makeup and she switched to philosophy, politics and economics as soon as she arrived at Oxford.

But she found plenty to quarrel with in the philosophical diet offered, too. Alongside ethics and psychology she wandered, in her spare time, in the realms of Dante and French literature.


Nott: as a philosopher, dogmatic, as a poet, rich and muscular

At Oxford she met Christopher Bailey, whom she subsequently married. His work in electronics and, later, computers took them abroad to Germany before the war, during which he was involved with government scientific work.

During the depression years of the 1930s she worked as a social worker and clinical psychologist among the poor of the Jewish East End, and the experience gained there gave rise to her first novel, *Mile End*, which was published in 1938.

This was set not amid such contemporary events as the Mosley fascist marches, as might have been expected, but in an earlier era — beginning with the dock strike of 1889 and ending in the middle of the First World War. It was much admired for Nott's grasp of various facets of the Jewish temperament and the psychological sway of Jewish religious lore on ordinary lives. Reviewers acknowledged at the same time that the creative impulse tended too often to be in thrall to the author's formidable intellectual control and analytical precision.

Nott published three more novels. *The Dry Deluge* (1947) was a satirical, semi-science-fiction fantasy which depicted a community retiring from the outside world and engaged in the scientific pursuit of fending off death. *Private Fires* (1961) was a critique of contemporary society's ills, set amid the dilapidated and badly run lodging houses of South London. Her last novel, *An Elderly Retired Man* (1963), is her best. Its study of the perplexities, personal failures, broodings and partial successes of the protagonist of the title achieved a subtlety and richness that eluded her more analytical works. And its account of a bid for independence from the limitations of old age and the domination of another individual — in this case the protagonist's wife — recalled Henri de Montherlant.

From soon after the war Nott had been publishing verse, too. *Landscapes and Departures* (1947) announced a new voice: skilful and confident, able to express its thought in pliant, rhythmical language, full of stark and often physical imagery. A *TLS* reviewer commented on her "rich, harsh and rather masculine talent".

Poems from the North (1956) demonstrated something of the same quality, but without the intensely personal feeling that had given *Landscapes and Departures* its impact. *Creatures and Emblems* (1960) was her last volume of verse. Although it still demonstrated the familiar energy, it suggested, in its relative lack of concentration, that her true interest was now in other forms of literary self-expression. She continued to be interested in poetry, as a vice-president of the English Centre of PEN International. But her later work was in prose.

A Clean, Well-Lighted Place was a critique of Swedish society, a country to which she had accompanied her husband when he went to work there. It was published in 1960, by which time their marriage had been dissolved. Subsequent critical-philosphical works were *A Soul in the Quad* (1969), a study of the relationship between poetry and philosophy as she experienced it in her own life and writings; *Philosophy and Human Nature* (1970); and *The Good Want Power*, subtitled *An Essay on the Psychological Possibilities of Realism* (1977).

From 1960 Kathleen Nott threw herself into her work for PEN as editor of its *Bulletin of Selected Books* (now *Pen International*) and she was President of English PEN, 1974-75. She continued to edit *Pen International* until 1989. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1977. There were no children of her marriage.

PROFESSOR T. J. SAUNDERS

Trevor Saunders, Professor of Greek at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, died of cancer on January 24 aged 64. He was born on July 12, 1934.

TREVOR SAUNDERS was one of the world's leading Platonists, and one of this country's best-known classicists. As head of the classics department at Newcastle University (1976-82 and 1987-92), he presided over a period of marked change and, with the classics under general attack, ensured that they survived and flourished at Newcastle. Though he had been first appointed in a very different atmosphere, he showed a remarkable ability to play all the new games without compromising his academic values. He was the kind of academic without whom universities could not function, and who are nowadays all the more necessary if such institutions are to remain what they should be, communities of scholars run by themselves.

Born and bred in Wiltshire, Trevor John Saunders won a scholarship from Chippenham Grammar School to University College London in 1953, and it was there that he was received into the Roman Catholic faith which sustained him throughout his life, and met the wife to whom he remained happily married for nearly forty years. After taking a first in classics, he went on to take a doctorate at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and was subsequently assistant lecturer in Latin at Bedford College, London (1959-61) and assistant lecturer and then lecturer in classics at Hull (1961-65). In 1965 he was appointed to a lectureship at Newcastle upon Tyne, where he rose to a chair in Greek in 1975.

At one time or another he taught most aspects of Greek language and literature, even lending a hand in the graveyard of "Beginner's Greek", but his main scholarly interest was in Greek social, political and legal thought. Before it became fashionable, he pioneered the study of Plato's last and longest work, the *Laws*. It was the subject of his PhD thesis, he translated it for Penguin Classics (1970) and devoted to it a long series of publications, culminating in his book, *Plato's Penal Code*



(Oxford, 1991). This earned him even more widespread respect among Plato scholars, and he was gratified to find his views frequently cited and vigorously debated at two international conferences on the *Laws* which he attended shortly before he died.

His other main publication was a translation of and commentary on the first two books of the *Politics* for the Clarendon Aristotle Series (1993).

His contributions to Penguin classics made him known to a wide audience. In addition to translating Plato's *Laws*, he revised and re-presented T. A. Sinclair's translation of Aristotle's *Politics* (1981) and contributed the general introduction to *Early Socratic Dialogues* (1987), himself translating the *Ion*. These publications are in the more scholarly mould of the later volumes in the series, and combine meticulous scholarship with a sympathetic awareness of non-specialist readers, a ready turn of phrase and a lively sense of humour. These last qualities also characterised his numerous articles and reviews.

His considerable output was not achieved at the expense of leaving the increasing burdens of administration to others. Among the many offices he held, he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1982-85), an elected member of the Senate (1977-80 and 1988-91) and of the Council (1984-87 and 1989-92). He was invariably well-prepared for committee meetings, and he put his points with a patent cogency which always commanded respect.

As a lecturer and teacher, he was admired for his lucidity and wit, and loved for the care and attention he gave to individual students. One of his chief concerns, in his last days, was that he might be letting them down.

Outside academic life, his two main passions were railways and the cinema. It was a family joke that holidays had to be arranged with the former in mind, and it was even rumoured that external examining in Wales was an excuse for visits to obsolete stations and track. This interest was wonderfully evoked at his cremation, which ended with the sound of one of his beloved steam engines pulling the last train to leave Wisburn on the Wansbeck line.

As a film buff, he had an eclectic taste, an eye for the telling visual detail, and for so gentle and kindly a man, a curious liking for some of the darkest and most violent of recent productions.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa, and two daughters.

JOHNNIE JOHNSON

Johnnie Johnson, journalist, died on February 10 aged 84. He was born on April 13, 1914.

FEW Fleet Street sub-editors can have worked on as many national titles as Johnnie Johnson. He was the chief sub at *The News Chronicle* until it folded in October 1960 and was later chief sub at the *Financial Times*, but he had also worked on the *Daily Dispatch*, *The Times*, the *Daily Express*, the *Daily Mirror*, the *Daily Mail*, *The Sun* and *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Johnson was also the man who saved the Press Club after it failed in 1986, reviving it as the London Press Club. The club's committee made a presentation to him at the end of last year to celebrate his fifty years as a member.

Born in Norfolk, John le Neve Johnson was educated at Bedford Modern School and tried his hand at landscaping before joining the *Hants & Sussex County Press*. He was appointed editor of the paper at the age of 23 in 1937, and he remained there until he joined up in the Artists' Rifles in September 1939. He was commissioned into the East Lancs Regiment in 1940.

On demob in 1945, he became a sub on the *Sheffield Star* and then joined the *News Chronicle* via the *Daily Dispatch*, *Daily Express*, and the *Daily Mirror*.

The shock of the closure of the *News Chronicle* in October 1960 was made worse by the lack of any pension provision even for senior members of staff. But Johnson — who for the next 38 years helped to organise the annual reunion of *News Chronicle* writers — had a subbing job on the *Daily Mail* by Christmas. He then also freelanced at *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*. After the *Daily Mail* merged with *The Sketch*, however, he was once more made redundant. He spent a year on *The Times* and then became chief sub on the *Financial Times* where he remained until he retired in 1979.

He then worked as a freelance for a host of other titles, and in the early 1990s he edited *Dear Sir*, a magazine made up entirely of readers' letters. In 1994, aged 80, Johnson became a columnist in *Lifewise*, a newspaper for retired people.

Johnnie Johnson will be remembered particularly for his amazing energy in keeping alive the spirit of the Press Club. George Westropp, the chairman of the London Press Club for nine years until last month, said: "Within days of the old club closing its doors in the International Press Centre, Johnnie and some of the other members met in the 'Mucky Duck' to find a way forward. It seemed impossible to him that London could be without a Press Club, but I do not exaggerate when I say that it would not have one today without him."

He and his wife Bunty often worked seven days a week on London Press Club matters right up to his death in hospital. His devotion to the ideal of the club and his focus and energy in getting things done were remarkable. A life member of the NUJ, Johnnie Johnson was also devoted to St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, where he was a guildsman.

Johnnie Johnson is survived by his wife, whom he married during the war, and by two daughters, one of whom is editor of *The Hexham Courant*.

WILLIAM SERVAES

William Servaes, festival administrator, died in London on January 28 aged 77. He was born at Bournemouth on June 30, 1921.

BILL SERVAES was General Administrator of the Aldeburgh Festival from 1971 to 1980. This was a difficult period in the festival's history, encompassing the time of Benjamin Britten's illness and death, and the latter years of Peter Pears's stewardship, but Servaes, a past master at combining tact and firmness, proved just the steady hand Aldeburgh needed. He was also enough of a psychologist to manage, almost without conflict, the varying moods of the festival's founding fathers.

Servaes succeeded Stephen Reiss, who had departed in traumatic circumstances not at all of Reiss's making, one of the Aldeburgh "corpses". Servaes was recommended to Britten and Pears by the opera director Colin Graham, for many years associated with the festival. As an urbane man-about-town he was just the figure to replace the efficient but reclusive Reiss, to smooth ruffled feathers and to help to support Britten in the period of the gestation of *Death in Venice*. Servaes later recalled that, having just resigned from another post, he jumped out of the frying pan into the fire.

At first brought in only as a caretaker, he applied for the post on a permanent basis. An invitation to the Red House, seen as a daunting prospect, proved productive: at once he formed a rapport with Britten. Immediately Servaes saw the need to raise both morale and funds, and succeeded in both objects. He also persuaded the composer to abandon grandiose plans at the Snape Maltings for a big arts centre and to concentrate on music.

William Servaes was born into a naval family and duly went to Dartmouth College, but not until he had attended a preparatory school on the Aldeburgh seafront. He then went to sea in the Fleet, serving as an officer in a destroyer during the war. He served in the Atlantic and eventually in Sicily, being mentioned in dispatches. Invalided out after the war, he joined the P&O Shipping Company, but when that was amalgamated with the Orient Line in the late 1950s, he left and joined the business side of an architectural firm in London. He had retired to the Old Rectory at Orford, when the call from the nearby Aldeburgh Festival came.

A product of his naval upbringing, Servaes liked to work with people who are precise and efficient, and Britten appreciated that as an attribute they shared. Servaes also understood the composer's need to be pampered, and to be kept free of unwanted worries and engagements. He quickly realised he should not impose himself in any way, never calling at the Red House unless summoned.

He never forgot the occasion when he went to the library of the Red House. Nobody seemed to be there: suddenly Britten entered with a flourish saying "There's your opera for the next festival". It was *Death in Venice*. During Britten's last illness the two men grew closer, and Britten visited Servaes and his wife for lunch in Orford, where they entertained Aldeburgh habitués at the Old Rectory.

Early on Servaes recognised that Britten was not the saintly person often depicted at the time, but a man of moods, who behind the charm could be petulant, even ruthless. He also coped with the sometimes stormy relationship with Pears and, after Britten's death, with Pears's often wilful and dilatory direction of the festival.

In a recent book of festival recollections entitled *Time and Concord* (a quotation from *Gloriana*), Servaes recounted how the production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, conducted by Rostropovich, came about at the 1979 Festival. All seemed ready, including finance, when Pears (who had been away running his own career) objected to the idea. There was consternation all round, until it was suggested that Pears should take the cameo role of Monsieur Triquet. At that he withdrew all objections. Servaes was too modest to add that his own intervention may have helped to save the day.

Servaes was engaging company. Walking along the seafront promenade, undeterred by the icy North Sea wind, he would regale his companion with the latest "family" crisis in the festival management. He was also adept, with his perfect manners and delightful smile, at welcoming artists and the public to Aldeburgh. At home his great passion was cooking.

Bill Servaes is survived by his wife and four of their five children — two sons and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

February 24, 1964

The Bill was passed and the Act, which abolished the Lord Chamberlain's power to censor plays, came into operation in 1968.

Sending the Lord Chamberlain off stage

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 11 am.

MR STRAUSS (Vauxhall, Lab), moving the second reading of the Theatres Bill, said it aimed to do away with all pre-censorship of plays by the Lord Chamberlain and leave censorship to be dealt with under the laws of the land.

Only playwrights were unable to present their work except by consent of one man. No one, no matter how sympathetic, should have such dictatorial powers. It added to the injustice when his only qualification was that he was head of the Queen's Household.

Censorship had originally been introduced to combat political criticism, and had been used as a political weapon ever since.

Among playwrights who had been disallowed from presenting in the past were Ibsen and Shaw, and much more recently Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and John Osborne had also been prevented from having plays shown in London, although they had appeared simultaneously with the ban in the United States.

Only recently Mr Bamber Gascoigne had come under this prohibition, and had written to *The Times* saying that his play was to appear in New York. Communist leaders could be portrayed derisively, but western leaders could not for fear of giving offence. All this was ludicrous and must stop.

There was no evidence to show that uncensored plays would become obscene. Theatres would become more circumspect. Critics would certainly condemn plays which over-stepped the bounds of decency, and they would not in any case be patronized by the public.

MR WORSLEY (Chelsea C) said it had been claimed that the Bill would usher into the theatre a new era of freedom, excitement and energy. My fear (he said) is that, except in the short run, the effect of this change may lead to the opposite of what is intended.

London had more theatre, better theatre, and more experimental theatre than anywhere. The House should be cautious before making too radical a change in the system under which it operated.

The replacement of the Lord Chamberlain with censorship by the courts might well be harsher and more uncertain.

There would be a short period of glorious freedom followed by one or two court actions perhaps ending in heavy damages. Then glorious freedom would be over and management would be much more cautious.

MR RAYMOND FLETCHER (Ilkeston, Lab) said there was a powerful case for censorship of the arts, but in spite of this he supported the Bill. He could not view as suitable a system which in essence was born in the 1730s because a gentleman, who later became a famous novelist, upset certain people with his prentice efforts as a dramatist.

MR MICHAEL FOOT (Ebbw Vale, Lab) said that the hardship caused to playwrights by the present system did not just arise from the prohibition of their plays. It could also affect their livelihood. It could be argued that the liberalisation of Britain owed much to the playwrights.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

WILLIAMSON OSWALD - Ingleby Margaret Ann Major, second daughter of Brigadier General O. C. Williamson Oswald and Meta Carson of Carnalea House, Co Down died peacefully in her sleep on 19th February. Funeral Service at 2.00pm on 3rd March at Hither Green Crematorium, Verdant Lane, London SE6. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to the RNIB c/o Francis Chappell and Sons, 5 Thomas Street, Woolwich, SE18. Tel 0181 854 0289.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BAGNALL - George. Everyone you love, loves and misses you.

LEGAL NOTICES

NO: 01083 OF 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TARGETER (UK) LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 11th day of February 1999 for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £250,000 to £50,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London WC2A 2LL on the 10th March 1999.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same by the under-mentioned solicitors upon payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 22nd day of February 1999

Waltman Breed Abbott & Morgan
11 Waterloo Place
London SW1Y 4AU
Solicitors for the above-named Company

HARROWLANE LIMITED
RICHBELL PUBLISHING LIMITED
TENDERSIGN LIMITED
(All in Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 11th February 1999, David Julian Buchler of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF and James Robert Smith of Deloitte & Touche, Stonecutter Court, 1 Stonecutter Street, London EC4A 4TR were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above Companies by resolutions of creditors.

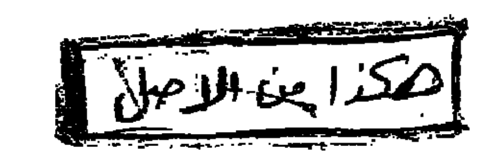
Notice is also given that the creditors of the above named companies, which are being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 9th April 1999 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned David Julian Buchler and James Robert Smith at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, the Joint Liquidators of the said Companies, and, if so required by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.

Dated 11th February 1999
DAVID JULIAN BUCHLER and JAMES ROBERT SMITH,
Joint Liquidators

Charity Commission
CHARITIES: S Wolfe Memorial Fund and Woodruffe Benton Foundation

REFERENCE: CP-G106822-CD(Ldn)
The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Speechly Bircham, Bouverie House, 154 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HX Ref DJW/RJH/127567 or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Harmsworth House, 13-15 Bouverie Street, London EC4Y 8DP, quoting the above reference.

Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.



NEWS

Blair begins battle for the euro

■ Tony Blair yesterday set Britain on a course that could see the end of sterling within five years.

He prepared the stage for one of the biggest political battles of the century by launching a 30-month campaign to persuade the country that it should enter the European single currency. In a marked shift of gear, the Prime Minister gave business the signal of the Government's intent to take Britain into the euro if the economic conditions are right.......................Pages 1, 10, 11

Seven die in Austrian avalanche

■ A huge avalanche swept through an Austrian ski resort, killing at least seven people and burying up to 40 others beneath thousands of tons of snow. Rescuers in the Tyrolean community of Galtür were frantically trying to reach the trapped as darkness fell. Several were pulled out alive.......................Pages 1, 4

Lawrences set to sue

The family of Stephen Lawrence is expected to launch a civil action for damages against the Metropolitan Police...............Pages 1, 5

MP leaked arms file

The arms-to-Africa affair dealt another blow to Robin Cook when a Labour MP on the inquiry committee resigned after admitting he had leaked a copy of its findings to the Foreign Secretary... Page 2

Colonials honoured

The courage of millions of soldiers from India, Africa and the Caribbean who volunteered to fight for the British Empire will be saluted with commemorative gates to be erected beside Buckingham Palace.......................Page 3

Mother 'left on floor'

A woman who left her mother lying on the floor for a week after she collapsed appeared in court yesterday charged with manslaughter.......................Page 6

Profiler stalked

Professor David Canter, one of Britain's leading criminal psychologists, told a court of a campaign of harassment from his former secretary, who threatened to destroy his career..........Page 7

Aged home tragedy

Two retired doctors lost the will to live after being told that the Red Cross residential home they had founded 50 years ago was to close, relatives said.......................Page 7

Voters back high tax

A Labour council is to raise council tax by more than twice the maximum recommended by the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott after winning the approval of its voters.......................Page 8

Library strike likely

Book delivery staff at the British Library have voted for a strike which would close most reading rooms.......................Page 8

Ceasefire ignored

Kosovo, technically, slumbers under a ceasefire that is supposed to last during Rambouillet's negotiations. On Monday, however, a Serb offensive displaced more than 4,000 refugees........Page 14

Ocalan faces judges

Just over a week after he was captured in Nairobi, Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader, made his first appearance before Turkish judges to be charged with treason.......................Page 15

UN under fire

American spies planted on a United Nations inspection team in Iraq may have had a hand in a failed military rebellion against Saddam Hussein, according to Scott Ritter, the former UN weapons monitor.......................Page 15

Bush for President

At least half of America's Republican governors are ready to endorse the White House ambitions of George W. Bush..........Page 16

Denim no longer fits the legend

Jeans, once the uniform of youth, are now a badge of middle age — and London Fashion Week provides clear evidence that among the fashionable, denim is dead. As Levi Strauss closed half its factories and axed 6,000 jobs after sales slumps this week, the only jeans wearers at the shows were overweight techies and forty-something men with balding heads....Page 9

ADRIAN BROOKS



Sixty-three MPs lost 324lb and gained £8,177 for Save The Children when the Commons Speaker Betty Boothroyd, left, and Weight Watchers' Julie Jameson put Westminster on a diet. Top of the class were (L-R) Menzies Campbell (14lb) Oliver Heald (28.5lb) and Harry Barnes (24.5lb)

Bank warning: The Governor of the Bank of England warned the Government that there was "potential for conflict" if it forced the bank to converge British and European interest rates in preparation for EMU membership............Page 25

Special dividend: Unilver announced a £5 billion special dividend to shareholders........Page 25

Miss Attitude: Reuben Singh, the 22-year-old businessman who founded the *Miss Attitude* retail chain, has sold out for an estimated £22 million.......................Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 85.3 points to 6155.2. The pound fell 1.16 cents to $1.6111 and also dropped 0.18p against the euro to 68.16p. The sterling index fell to 101.6 from 101.9.......................Page 28

Motor racing: Eddie Jordan, the owner of the Jordan Formula One team, has warned Damon Hill that he must improve his performance in the coming season or risk being dropped.......................Page 48

Racing: Bint Allayl, the favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, has been put down after suffering a leg fracture on the gallops.......................Page 43

Rugby union: Francis Baron, the chief executive of the Rugby Football Union, has launched a devastating attack on the way the sport has been run since the beginning of the professional era.........Page 48

Golf: Nick Faldo is thrown into direct conflict with the American Tiger Woods in the Andersen World Match Play event which begins today in California....Page 46

Stepping out: Irek Mukhamedov turns 39 next week. Yet far from hanging up his ballet slippers, the Russian star is about to be handed a new full-length role, that of Don Juan.......................Page 36

Lukewarm love: Didy Veldman's new staging of *Carmen* for Northern Ballet Theatre has so much going for it that it's a shame there isn't more full-blooded passion to drive the ballet.......................Page 36

Female trio: The three women of the Nualas bring a deadpan delivery and a devilish irony to the stage in their new show at London's Drill Hall.......................Page 37

French art: Paris celebrates the genius of Mark Rothko and David Hockney in two exhibitions that are well worth a visit.............Page 38

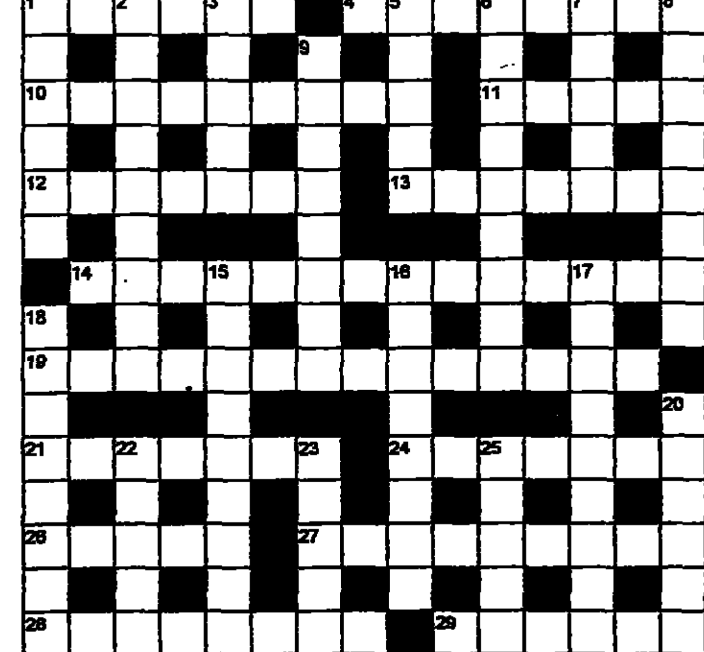
Alien patient: "Patience is alien to me. If I were patient, I would not be a journalist on a daily newspaper; I would be writing a long and worthy book." Mary Ann Sieghart on why she is unwell.............Page 17

Nigel Hawkes: Did a forgotten astronomer discover the planet Uranus? Plus, the dangers of iodine deficiency.......................Page 18

Higher ground: Despite his huge success, Tommy Hilfiger craves higher recognition.............Page 19

Public art: *How sculpture is figuring in the plans of property developers*.......................Page 34

South Korea: Can this Asian tiger spring back after the blow of the 1997 financial crisis?....Pages 39-41



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Sean Penn, left, stars in Terrence Malick's long-awaited drama, *The Thin Red Line*

■ BOOKS
Psychology of cyberspace: the Net as Heaven, Hell & Purgatory — all in one

Nothing more aptly captures the flaws of the Kosovo negotiations than the news of Nato's supreme commander meeting with negotiators a half-hour's drive from the main talks. Nato is supposed to enforce any peace agreement that is achieved. But due to European arrogance and American weakness, General Wesley Clark and his officers have not been admitted to the talks. It's no wonder that Kosovo independence fighters, asked to surrender their arms in exchange for Nato protection, are reluctant.

The Washington Post

Preview: Failing family shoe business gambles on making kinky boots for men. *Trouble at the Top* (BBC2, 9.50pm) **Review:** "At times it was like listening to a precocious child who thinks he's impressing the world by using needlessly long words." Joe Joseph on *Queer as Folk*.......................Pages 46, 47

Five tests for euro

Flexibility is the key to harmony and prosperity in Europe. That is the strategic prize which every British voter should keep in mind when an inflexible future is being represented, increasingly and ever more shrilly represented, as an inevitable one.......................Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

This will be a battle royal. Few can have watched yesterday's clash in the Commons over the euro without thrilling to a sense of political history.......................Page 1

PETER RIDDELL

As Mr Heseltine urged, Mr Blair has to take a lead in what will be a cross-party campaign. He has picked up the euro standard, even if he is not yet waving it........Page 11

SIMON JENKINS

The talk is that the Prime Minister misses Peter Mandelson. He wanders the lonely corridors mooning over his ghost, like Henry II over Becket.......................Page 20

BRONWEN MADDOX

Faulkner's writing goes to the heart of the preoccupations which made the South very separate from the rest of the country — and sometimes still do.......................Page 20

ALAN COREN

What I do not know what to do about is the animal which is stuck in the branches of the acacia tree. It has been stuck there for some hours.......................Page 20

Kathleen Nott, critic and novelist; **Professor T. J. Saunders**, Professor of Greek at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne; **Johnnie Johnson**, journalist; **William Servaes**, administrator............Page 23

Prospects for police after accusation of racism; Straw's press injunction; Simon Jenkins and Turkey; Arsenal's "fair play"; White Paper; Elgin Marbles; rugby........Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,035

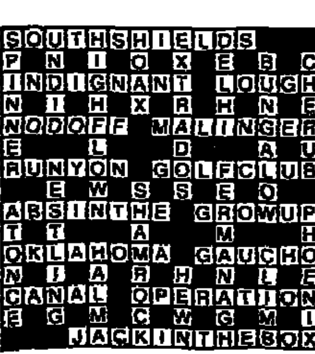
ACROSS

1 Giving publicity to one boxing? (6).
4 No longer keen on pure cream (3-5).
10 Such trees are barely recognisable in winter (9).
11 Tobacco fraud (5).
12 Cutlery in military store (7).
13 There are two points he can possibly raise (7).
14 Nick's lawyer? (6,8).
19 Wild flowers that aren't common (5-3-6).
21 Senior accountant's holiday spot (7).
24 Composer goes to court for judgment (7).
26 Oil producer under pressure has a heart of stone (5).
27 Stop injured miner going into gallery (9).
28 Such tolerance may be a matter of degree (8).
29 Mint that's still unwrapped? (6).

DOWN

1 One habitually taking things did wrong in law (6).
2 A spinner of yarn can – true or false? (9).
3 A touching reminder (5).
5 American in charge of the match (5).
6 Guard what one says – a good maxim (9).
7 Nine getting half ration – he got revolutionary punishment (5).
8 Well held! (6).
9 Absconding child makes mischief (6-2).
15 Rebelling against authority, gets run in, perhaps (9).
16 Release a shipment (8).
17 Blend of main races (9).
18 Well-known line in footwear (8).
20 Be there at the start and finish (6).
22 Pot roast? (5).
23 Played first part of hymn in a modern recording (5).
25 Check key in, as a rule (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,034



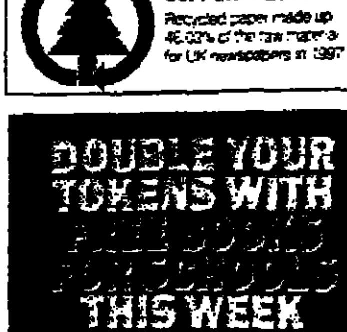
SOUTHSHIELDS
P N I O X E B C
INDIGNANT LOUGH
N I H X R H N E
NODOFF MALINGERER
E L D A U
RUNYON GOLFCLUB
E W S S E O
ABSINTHE GROWUP
T T A M H
OKLAHOMA GAUCHO
N I A R H N L E
CANAL OPERATION
E G M C W G M I
JACKINTHEBOX

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.57 am — Sun sets: 5.31 pm
Moon sets: 2.32 pm — Moon rises: 11.36am
Full moon: March 2nd
London 5.31 pm to 6.55 am
Bristol 5.41 pm to 7.05 am
Edinburgh 5.35 pm to 7.15 am
Manchester 5.36 pm to 7.07 am
Penzance 5.55 pm to 7.15 am



☐ **General:** any early rain or snow in southern England and Wales will move away to leave a mostly dry and bright afternoon. The rest of England and Wales will be dry with decent sunny spells. Most of Scotland will be cold with some hazy sunshine

☐ **London, SE England:** overnight rain clearing then dry with some sunny spells. Light NE wind. Max 6-8C (43-46F).

☐ **E Anglia, Midlands, E England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N & NE England:** after any early cloud breaks up, dry with sunny spells. Light N to NE wind. Max 5-7C (41-45F).

☐ **Cent S & SW England, S Wales:** any early rain or sleet clearing then dry and bright. Moderate N wind. Max 5-8C (41-46F).

☐ **Channel Isles:** wet start, becoming drier and brighter. Moderate N wind. Max 7-9C (45-48F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny after frosty start. Light, variable wind. Max 3-6C (37-43F)

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunny and frosty, rain or sleet later. Light winds becoming moderate southwesterly. Max 4-7C (39-45F)

☐ **N Ireland:** early rain in north and west, becoming dry with some sun. Light, variable wind. Max 7-10C (45-50F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** some rain at first then mainly dry. Wind S then NW, moderate. Max 8-9C (46-48F)

☐ **Outlook:** milder, rain spreading south.

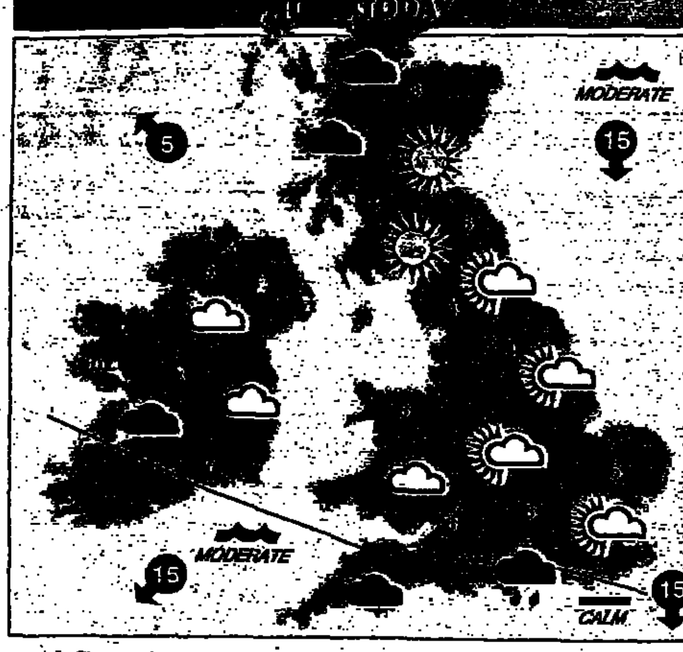
24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	4.6	0.03	4	39	c	Kinloss	0.2	0.04	4	39	c
Anglesey	0.1	0.04	7	45	r	Leeds	6.0	-	8	45	s
Aspatria	5.2	-	5	41	s	Lerwick	3.2	0.19	2	36	sn
Aviemore	2.7	0.07	3	37	b	Leuchars	6.2	0.01	5	41	s
Belfast	-	0.15	4	39	sl	Littlehampton	5.8	-	9	48	s
Birmingham	5.8	0.04	5	41	s	London	7.2	0.01	8	46	s
Bognor R	6.0	-	8	46	s	Lowestoft	2.0	0.01	5	41	c
Bournemth	5.2	-	8	45	s	Manchester	5.1	-	7	45	s
Bristol	4.2	0.01	8	48	s	Margate	8.7	-	7	45	s
Buxton	4.5	-	4	39	s	Morecambe	4.8	0.01	6	43	s
Cardiff	0.7	0.01	7	45	r	Newcastle	7.2	-	6	43	s
Clacton	7.9	-	6	43	s	Newquay	0.5	0.05	8	46	d
Cleethorpes	5.8	-	7	45	s	Norwich	2.6	-	6	43	s
Cromer	0.7	0.01	5	41	c	Oxford	5.7	0.03	7	45	s
Eastbourne	8.0	-	8	46	s	Penzance	-	0.03	9	48	sh
Edinburgh	4.3	-	6	43	s	Poole	1.0	0.01	9	48	c
Eskdalemuir	4.9	-	5	41	s	Prestatyn	0.6	0.01	6	43	c
Exmouth	0.5	0.01	7	45	d	Ross on Wye	3.4	0.01	7	45	s
Fishguard	0.3	0.01	6	43	r	Saunton Sands	0.5	-	8	46	b
Folkestone	9.2	-	9	48	s	Scarborough	7.4	-	5	41	s
Glasgow	3.5	-	6	43	b	Shrewsbury	1.5	0.12	6	43	r
Guernsey	-	0.05	9	48	d	Skegness	8.6	-	7	45	s
Hastings	7.9	-	9	48	s	Southend	8.4	-	5	41	s
Hayling I	5.1	0.01	8	46	s	Southsea	6.7	-	9	48	s
Herne Bay	8.0	-	8	46	s	Stornoway	1.1	0.05	5	41	c
Hove	6.0	-	9	45	s	Swanage	2.9	-	8	46	b
Hunstanton	7.4	-	6	43	s	Teignmouth	-	0.01	7	45	sh
Isle of Man	0.6	0.09	6	43	r	Tenby	-	0.01	7	45	d
Isle of Wight	X	-	8	48	s	Tiree	1.2	0.04	5	41	r
Jersey	2.6	0.02	9	48	r	Torquay	-	-	9	48	b

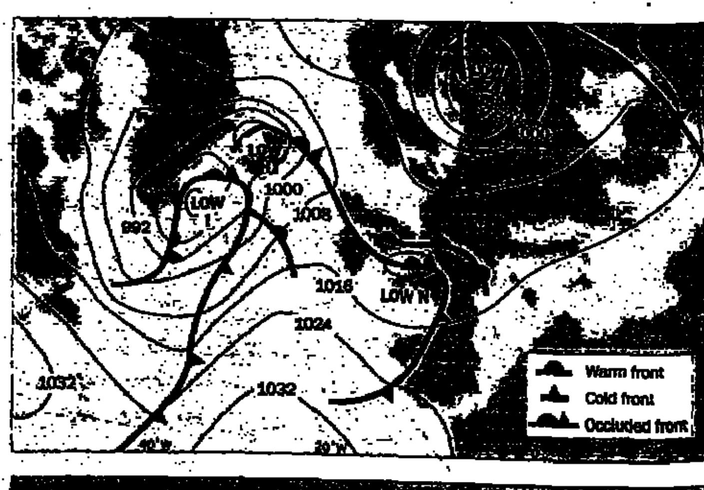
Extremes: highest day max St Marys, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day max Tulloch Bridge, Highland, 2C (36F); highest rain, Lough Fea, Tyrone, 0.28in, highest sun Folkestone, Kent, 9.2hr.

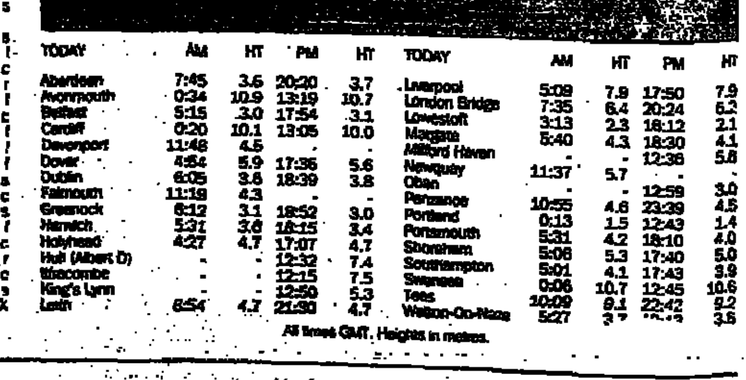
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Cologne	6	43	r	Madrid	15	59	s	Rome	14	57	f
Akrotiri	15	59	s	C'phagn	3	37	c	Majorca	18	64	s	R'nldsway	8	46	f
Alex'dria	16	61	s	Corfu	13	55	r	Malaga	20	68	s	Salzburg	1	34	f
Algiers	19	66	c	Dublin	8	46	c	Malta	15	59	c	S Frisco	11	52	s
Amst'dm	5	41	r	Dubrovnik	12	54	f	Melbourne	23	73	s	Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	16	61	f	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	15	59	f	S Paulo	X		
Bahrain	20	68	c	Florence	11	52	f	Miami	22	72	s	Seoul	3	37	s
Bangkok	32	90	s	Frankfurt	6	43	r	Milan	11	52	s	Singapore	30	86	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	16	61	c	Montreal	-7	19	s	Stockholm	1	34	c
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	9	48	f	Moscow	-5	23	c	Strasbrg	7	45	r
Beijing	7	45	s	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	4	39	r	Sydney	25	77	f
Beirut	13	55	s	Helsinki	-5	23	sn	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tangier	16	61	c
Belgrade	9	48	f	Hong K	15	59	f	Naples	13	55	f	Tel Aviv	15	59	f
Berlin	6	43	r	Innsbruck	3	37	r	N Delhi	23	73	s	Tenerife	19	66	f
Bermuda	19	66	s	Istanbul	11	52	s	N York	1	34	f	Tokyo	8	46	f
Biarritz	12	54	d	Jeddah	29	84	s	Nice	14	57	s	Toronto	-5	23	s
Bordeaux	13	55	d	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Oslo	-3	27	sn	Tunis	17	63	c
Brussels	7	45	r	L Palmas	19	66	s	Paris	9	48	c	Valencia	22	72	s
Budapest	4	39	f	Le Touqt	8	46	f	Perth	31	88	s	Vancver	8	46	f
B Aires	29	84	f	Lisbon	16	61	s	Prague	3	37	s	Venice	6	43	c
Cairo	17	63	s	Locarno	8	46	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	c	Vienna	5	41	r
Cape Tn	23	73	c	L Angeles	15	59	s	Rhodes	13	55	r	Warsaw	3	37	c
Chicago	0	32	s	Luxembg	4	39	f	Rio de J	28	82	s	Wash'ton	3	37	s
Ch'church	X			Luxor	21	70	f	Riyadh	13	55	c	Wellngton	19	66	X

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low N will move southeast and fill, lows I and H will move northeast and deepen; low Z will slowly fill in situ





TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	7:45	3.6	20:20	3.7	Liverpool	5:09	7.9	17:50	7.9
Avonmouth	0:34	10.9	13:19	10.7	London Bridge	7:35	6.4	20:24	6.2
Belfast	5:15	3.0	17:54	3.1	Lowestoft	3:13	2.3	18:12	2.1
Cardiff	0:20	10.1	13:05	10.0	Margate	5:40	4.3	18:30	4.1
Devonport	11:48	4.5	-	-	Milford Haven	-	-	12:36	5.8
Dover	4:54	5.9	17:36	5.6	Newquay	11:37	5.7	-	-
Dublin	6:05	3.8	18:39	3.8	Oban	-	-	12:59	3.0
Falmouth	11:19	4.3	-	-	Penzance	10:55	4.6	23:39	4.5
Greenock	6:12	3.1	18:52	3.0	Portland	0:13	1.5	12:43	1.4
Harwich	5:31	3.6	18:15	3.4	Portsmouth	5:31	4.2	18:10	4.0
Holyhead	4:27	4.7	17:07	4.7	Shoreham	5:06	5.3	17:40	5.0
Hull (Albert D)	-	-	12:32	7.4	Southampton	5:01	4.1	17:43	3.9
Ilfracombe	-	-	12:15	7.5	Swansea	0:06	10.7	12:45	10.6
King's Lynn	-	-	12:50	5.3	Tees	10:09	9.1	22:42	9.2
Leith	8:54	4.7	21:30	4.7	Walton-On-Naze	5:27	3.7	[illegible]	3.6

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1999

George fears conflict if Bank is forced to converge rates

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday warned the Government that there was "potential for conflict" if it forced the Bank of England to converge British and European interest rates in preparation for membership of EMU.

Mr George also told the Treasury Select Committee that there are still considerable risks to the health of the global economy with the "extraordinary buoyancy" of the US economy in particular vulnerable to a substantial slowdown.

However, the Governor rejected a claim from DeAnne Julius, an independent member of the Monetary Policy committee who was also appearing before the committee, that the Bank may have made a mistake in raising rates during the first part of last year. He claimed that the Bank's sudden shift in policy last autumn was driven by a "pretty dramatic" deterioration abroad.



Eddie George at the committee yesterday

Mr George's comments were later echoed by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who gave warning that although the US economy was performing "admirably" a tightening labour market and financial turmoil abroad posed big risks to US growth.

Dr Greenspan questioned whether US shares were overvalued. International stock markets, however, largely shrugged off Dr Greenspan's comments with the Dow Jones industrial average in New York holding firm after Monday's 200-point gain. In London, the FTSE 100 recorded its second-highest closing level to date, climbing 85.3 points to 6,155.2. French and German markets also made substantial gains.

Mr George, who was speaking ahead of the publication of the Government's National Changeover Plan, left MPs in no doubt that the Government still faces formidable obstacles to joining the euro. He insisted that the Bank could find it difficult to continue to meet the Government's inflation target if it was also obliged to reduce interest rates towards European levels.

"I would think the potential for conflict was quite high," Mr George said. Although the Bank of England has made substantial cuts in interest rates in the past few months, British rates still stand at 5.5 per cent, compared with just 3 per cent in the eurozone.

The Governor said the Bank had no plans in place for a changeover to the euro and there was "not a shred of truth" in claims that the Bank is already trying to reduce rates to European levels. "If the Government has that objective they have not told me," Mr George said.

However, he admitted that the fact that both the Bank and the European Central Bank are pursuing policies for stable inflation should "in time bring a measure of convergence."

He said switching from the current target measure of inflation to the differently calculated European measure could prove "intensely damaging" to the credibility of the Bank's battle against rising prices.

British inflation calculated using the European measure, which does not include items such as owner-occupied housing, stands at just 1.6 per cent compared with 2.6 per cent for the target measure and 2.4 per cent for overall inflation. Commentary, page 27

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

BRITAIN recorded its largest trade deficit for nine years in 1998 as the Asian crisis took a huge toll of export performance, data published yesterday show. The monthly data for January, also published yesterday, suggest there is no respite in sight for exporters, with the non-EU deficit hitting a new record of £2.21 billion. Across the full year, the overall trade in goods deficit ballooned from £11.6 billion to £20.6 billion.

Economic growth remained positive in the last quarter of 1998, however, despite the poor trade performance. The revised fourth-quarter GDP data showed the annual rate of growth at 1.3 per cent, compared with a previous estimate of 1.5 per cent. The quarterly rate of growth remains unchanged at 0.2 per cent. Across 1998 as a whole, growth was placed at 2.3 per cent, compared with a previous estimate of 2.5 per cent.

SCALING THE HEIGHTS

NatWest breaks through the £2bn barrier

By Caroline Merrell
Banking Correspondent

NATWEST brought further cheer to the upbeat British banking sector yesterday when it reported profits that broke through the £2 billion level for the first time.

Pre-tax profits for 1998 exceeded City expectations, reaching £2.1 billion against £975 million for 1997, although those figures had been reduced by £706 million of losses from NatWest Markets, its former investment banking arm.

Even then the 1998 figures were dented by a £100 million provision for pensions mis-selling, relating to the second stage of the mis-selling review.

Bad debt provisions in emerging markets fell by 27 per cent, reaching £2.3 billion.

Derek Wanless, chief executive, said: "We have reduced our exposure to counterparties and customers in emerging countries over the past year. We have taken £86 million of additional specific provisions in respect of customer and bank loans in Asia and Russia."

Mr Wanless did admit that the banking group's restructuring plan, which included shedding 10,000 jobs, has fallen behind schedule.

Instead of completion by next year as was planned, the restructuring will not be completed until 2001. He emphasised that the bank was continuing to bring down costs. He said: "NatWest's costs in 2000 will be lower than in 1997."

On possible acquisitions, Mr Wanless said that at present the bank prefered to concentrate on developing its own businesses.

"There are plans in place around the group in terms of each of the individual businesses to improve efficiency and effectiveness," he said.

"We have not seen anything that in our view is value from a shareholder point of view," he added.

The group proposed a final dividend of 24.2p, giving a total dividend of 36p, up 11.8 per cent on the previous year. The shares reacted positively climbing 45p to £13.19.

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Business Today

Ready for the euro?
Single currency would put unconverted in a spin
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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6155.2	(+85.3)
Yield	2.59%	
FTSE All Share	2812.38	(+32.41)
Nikkei	14500.85	(+243.98)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9568.41	(+15.73)*
S&P Composite	1275.14	(+3.00)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]%*	([illegible]%)
Long bond	97[illegible]*	(98[illegible])
Yield	5.42%*	(5.36%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	117.86	(117.57)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6140*	(1.6263)
London:		
$	1.6113	(1.6227)
€	1.4674	(1.4707)
SFr	2.3391	(2.3525)
Yen	195.28	(195.25)
£ Index	101.6	(101.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0994*	(1.1027)
SFr	1.4502*	(1.4507)
Yen	121.30*	(121.23)
$ index	108.1	(107.5)

Tokyo close Yen 120.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$11.05	($10.75)

GOLD

London close	$287.45	($287.25)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 26

Unilever to give 'no use' £5bn to shareholders

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch food and soap company, launched the largest cash return to shareholders yesterday in the form of a £5 billion special dividend. Niall FitzGerald, Unilever's chief executive, admitted that the company had no use for the cash which amounts to 10 per cent of the total market value of the company.

The payout, which amounts to 66.13p per share, is almost equal to the £4.7 billion proceeds of the sale to ICI of the specialty chemical businesses in 1997.

Mr FitzGerald said the company had promised to distribute the proceeds to investors if no big acquisitions were made within two to three years. However, he said that Unilever had been unable to find deals that would generate value for shareholders and he blamed the market for overpricing assets.

He said: "We don't need the money. Management ego creates great pressure to do deals and we have looked very carefully at target companies. We believe that the values attached to many businesses are excessive. It is not sustainable."

Unilever's mammoth cash handout came as the company revealed a pre-tax profit, at constant exchange rates and excluding disposals, of £3.3 billion, an increase of 41 per cent over 1997. Operating margins move into double digits and the total ordinary dividend is increased by 27 per to 10.7p.

The company managed just 1 per cent sales growth in Europe due to the cool summer which hurt ice-cream sales but the company has restored Persil to lead position in the UK thanks to the success of its new laundry tablet. Unilever's US profits gained 14 per cent with strong growth in food and personal care products but the Asian crisis forced the company to sacrifice growth to protect margins and market shares.

Unilever's cash distribution will be closely scrutinised by other companies, including Royal Dutch/Shell which has struggled to find a tax-efficient mechanism for returning capital to shareholders. Under Dutch law, taxpaying shareholders could suffer a levy of up to 60 per cent on a cash handout.

Unilever's novel solution is the issue of a preference share to Dutch taxpaying investors which will have a five-year life. However, the decision not to do a share buyback could penalise US investors who account for more than 20 per cent of Unilever. Under US rules any capital payment other than a buyback is treated as income and is therefore taxable.

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Niall FitzGerald promised to distribute proceeds of the sale of its specialty business to investors

Halifax investors protest at windfall

HALIFAX shareholders protested yesterday at the way the bank's £1.5 billion capital repatriation programme had been presented as a windfall (Richard Miles writes).

Investors will receive a cash payment averaging £217 in June, but many argue this will be more than offset by a corresponding reduction in the number of shares they hold. Halifax plans to swap 37 shares in a new holding company for 40 of the existing flotation stocks.

Singh makes £22m with Attitude

By Fraser Nelson

REUBEN SINGH, the 22-year-old businessman who founded the Miss Attitude retail chain, has sold out for an estimated £22 million. He has sold to Gary Klesch, the vulture fund investor who took over the Knickerbox chain in January last year and now intends to merge the two companies.

Mr Singh, who is said to be worth £50 million, said he intends to use the money to set up his own venture capital fund which will buy media companies. He said: "I've done retail. I've been there, seen that, got the T-shirt. Now it's time for media — and if anyone has any offers, I'm here."

He opened Miss Attitude in Manchester's Arndale Centre while he was studying for his A-levels four years ago. It now has 40 outlets in the UK, and last made a profit of £1.5 million.

The exact value of the deal has not been disclosed, but Mr Singh said he "would not have picked up the phone" to Mr Klesch if he had offered the £8 million price tag City analysts were suggesting.

Mr Singh is a director of six other companies, and runs most of them with his 20-year-old brother Bobby. Mr Klesch runs Klesch Capital Partners, which buys distressed companies cheaply and restores them to financial health. He has bought Miss Attitude to help to turn round Knickerbox.

BSkyB opens talks with Canal

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

BSKYB, the satellite television group, has opened exploratory talks with Canal Plus, Europe's largest subscription television company.

While talks are believed to be at an early stage, looking at a wide range of options, they are understood potentially to include a full £14 billion merger of the two companies. Together, the two groups would be the dominant pay-TV player in Europe in terms of scale although they do not compete directly in any market.

BSkyB, in which News International, the owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, is based wholly in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Previous attempts to break into continental Europe, particularly in Germany, have come to nothing. Yesterday BSkyB shares rose by 3.5 per cent to close at 536¾p, up 18¼p.

BSkyB declined to comment last night but Canal Plus, which has a total of 11 million subscribers in Europe, acknowledged that there had been talks. Any merger would inevitably attract close scrutiny from Brussels. Competition Commissioner Karel van Miert has taken a particular interest in issues of dominance in new media.

A merger would also involve football and sports rights issues. BSkyB has made a recommended £563 million offer for Manchester United, which is being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Canal Plus owns a top French club, Paris St Germain.

Internet share frenzy fails to interest Gates

From Oliver August
in New York

BILL GATES, the world's richest man, invests none of his money in Internet stocks and instead sticks to much safer government and corporate bonds.

The Microsoft founder, who is worth close to $100 billion (£62 billion) owns $10 billion in bonds and only $500 million in shares. Another $1 billion of his vast fortune is invested in private ventures such as property deals.

The biggest part of his wealth is still tied up at his software company. He owns a 20 per cent stake in the $400 billion business. But for several years, Mr Gates has been selling Microsoft shares to diversify his investments.

The fund manager he picked to carry out his investing is Michael Larson, a complete unknown until now. Mr Larson, 39, has complete discretion over Mr Gates's fortune, making him possibly the single most powerful investor on Wall Street.

There are only two hedge funds that are bigger in America, Soros and Tiger Management, both of which employ hundreds of people. Mr Larson was hand-picked by Mr Gates after a careful interview process during which Mr Gates checked each one of Mr Larson's 13 references.

His title is chief investment officer of a company called BGI — Bill Gates Investments. Mr Gates and Mr Larson hold meetings every six weeks and discuss investment ideas and market conditions by e-mail.

The Microsoft founder does not interfere directly with Mr Larson's decisions or the timing of his buying and selling.

Last year the fund manager justified his position as banker to the world's richest man by outperforming the Dow Jones industrial average rise of 17 per cent.

In his first ever interview, he told *Fortune* magazine about a number of his investments.

He holds short-term government bonds as well as some junk bonds and emerging market debt. In the equity part of the portfolio he holds telecommunications companies Liberty Media, TCI, Cox and USA Networks. He also owns a stake in Berkshire Hathaway, the investment company of Warren Buffett, a friend of Mr Gates.

Warning on profit hits OAI

Shares in Oxford Asymmetry International (OAI) fell more than 10 per cent as the fast-growing supplier of chemicals to the pharmaceutical industry warned investors that it expects flat profits this year.

OAI shares fell back to 499p from 558p yesterday.

Sales, up 47 per cent to £14.9 million last year, are increasing rapidly, but the company is experiencing a number of growing pains.

Merant decline

Merant, the software solutions company, reported net profit at $5.2 million (£3.2 million) for the three months to January 31 ($10.8 million). The shares rose 5p to 146½p. Revenues were $95.7 million ($100.9 million). Earnings per share were 4 cents (7 cents).

Pearson

We have been asked to point out that the Extel business that Pearson has sold to Primark for £19 million does not include Ex-share which generates about 75 per cent of revenues of the Extel business Pearson acquired in 1994.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.62	2.45
Austria Sch	21.23	19.57
Belgium Fr	62.51	57.55
Canada $	2.533	2.345
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8351	0.8236
Denmark kr	11.52	10.63
Egypt	5.71	5.10
Finland Mkk	9.29	8.54
France Fr	10.11	9.33
Germany Dm	3.039	2.797
Greece Dr	501	462
Hong Kong $	13.32	12.12
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17900	12900
Ireland Pt	1.2126	1.1236
Israel Shk	6.89	6.23
Italy Lira	3022	2785
Japan Yen	210.49	192.96
Malta	0.669	0.610
Netherlds Gld	3.431	3.136
New Zealand $	3.14	2.90
Norway Kr	13.33	12.39
Portugal Esc	307.34	285.31
S Africa Rd	10.68	9.72
Spain Pta	256.15	237.36
Sweden Kr	13.88	12.78
Switzerland Fr	2.499	2.281
Turkey Lira	585953	547008
USA $	1.719	1.576

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Wimpey sets strong growth targets as profit rises 35%

By Robert Cole
City Correspondent

GEORGE WIMPEY, the housebuilder, has set itself ambitious targets to lift UK revenues by 50 per cent over the next five years and to double US revenues.

The targets were set out as Wimpey reported a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £85 million in 1998 (£63.1 million).

Yesterday's results were the last to be delivered by Joe Dwyer, Wimpey's long-serving chairman. Executive control of the group is passing to Dennis Brant, chief executive. He said he wanted to see the operating profit margins in one of its two UK housing companies — called Wimpey Homes — rise from 7.8 per cent to at least 10 per cent in two years. Last year margins in that segment widened 16 per cent to 6.7 percent.

Wimpey's second UK division, McLean Homes, already has operating profit margins of 11.4 per cent. Mr Brant said he wanted to maintain these margins. Wimpey is also preparing to extend its US operations, which trades as Morrison Homes, by opening three new sales offices in Florida.

Helped by the release of US tax losses from previous years, Wimpey's earnings grew 46 per cent to 17.6p a share in the year just ended. The final dividend is 3.9p, making 6p for the year (5.7p). The shares rose 2½p to 133p yesterday.

Beazer, a rival housebuilder, also unveiled financial results yesterday. But in stark contrast to the strength shown by Wimpey, Beazer reported a 15 per cent decline in profits, blaming delays in several planning applications for the fall.

Beazer earned £26.6 million in the six months to December 31 (£31.4 million). The planning delays meant Beazer had fewer completed properties available for sale. It also increased the amount of money Beazer had tied up in working capital.

However, Dennis Webb, chief executive, insisted that the planning problems had only delayed building work and left the company in better shape for the future.

Both Wimpey and Beazer reported that their average selling prices increased, but attributed the rises to a change in the mix of properties sold, rather than because of any substantial growth in comparable selling prices. Both firms are selling more bigger houses.

Earnings at Beazer declined 16 per cent to 6.7p a share. The interim dividend, however, was lifted 9 per cent to 2.5p. The shares fell 2½p to 166½p.

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First Technology in £89m US deal

FIRST TECHNOLOGY announced the $145.1 million (£89 million) acquisition of America's Control Devices in a deal that unites two of the world's leading suppliers of vehicle safety products. The acquisition will be partly funded by a one-for-four rights issue of new First Technology shares at 320p each, raising £37.6 million. Existing shares fell 6½p to 370p yesterday. Control Devices, whose shares are listed on Nasdaq, was the subject of a management buyout from GTE in 1996. In the last financial year it earned net income of $7.9 million, up from $5.9 million in the previous 12 months.

A number of shareholders of Control Devices, including senior managers, will subscribe for new First Technology shares worth £4.9 million. First Technology, which is capitalised at about £180 million, said yesterday that trading was most satisfactory, with group sales from continuing operations exceeding last year's levels. More than 90 per cent of First Technology's sales are made outside the UK.

Croda dividend move

CRODA INTERNATIONAL, the speciality chemicals group, yesterday said that its 1998 pre-tax profit would be in line with general market expectations, which stand at about £32 million. The company also said it would bring forward payment of its final dividend of 6.8p from July 1 to April 1. This will enable Croda to class the payment as a foreign income dividend, which brings tax advantages that are due to be abolished on April 6. The shares rose 5p to 261½p.

Allied merger nears

ALLIED LEISURE, the ten-pin bowling and Burger King restaurants operator, confirmed that it is in merger talks with European Leisure, the nightclubs and cue sports group. As *The Times* reported last week, the two are discussing a nil-premium merger, although analysts expect Allied's directors to control the new board. A deal could be announced next week. The market welcomed the news, with Allied's shares gaining 2p to 27½p and European closing 1½p higher at 70p.

Kvaerner into the red

KVAERNER, the Anglo-Norwegian shipping and engineering group, reported pre-tax losses of 1.35 billion crowns (£105 million) against profits last year of 1.51 billion crowns, sending the company's shares tumbling by more than 6 per cent on the Oslo bourse. Kjell Almskog, president, said: "These unsatisfactory results reflect very negative business developments for Kvaerner in 1998. The year was marked by decline in our main markets and a change of management and of priorities."

Vymura prospects lift

VYMURA, the wallpaper manufacturer, saw its shares rise 10½p to 73½p as it reported a good start to 1999. Pre-tax profit for the year ended December 31 was £3.2 million, down from £5.1 million, but ahead of market expectations. Turnover was £40.6 million (£41 million). Andrew Garety, the chairman, said that sales in January were ahead of budget, and he expects "opportunities for sales growth". Earnings per share were 9.4p (14.2p) and the final dividend of 4p (3.8p) gives a total for the year of 5.7p (5.4p).

War chest at Irish Permanent

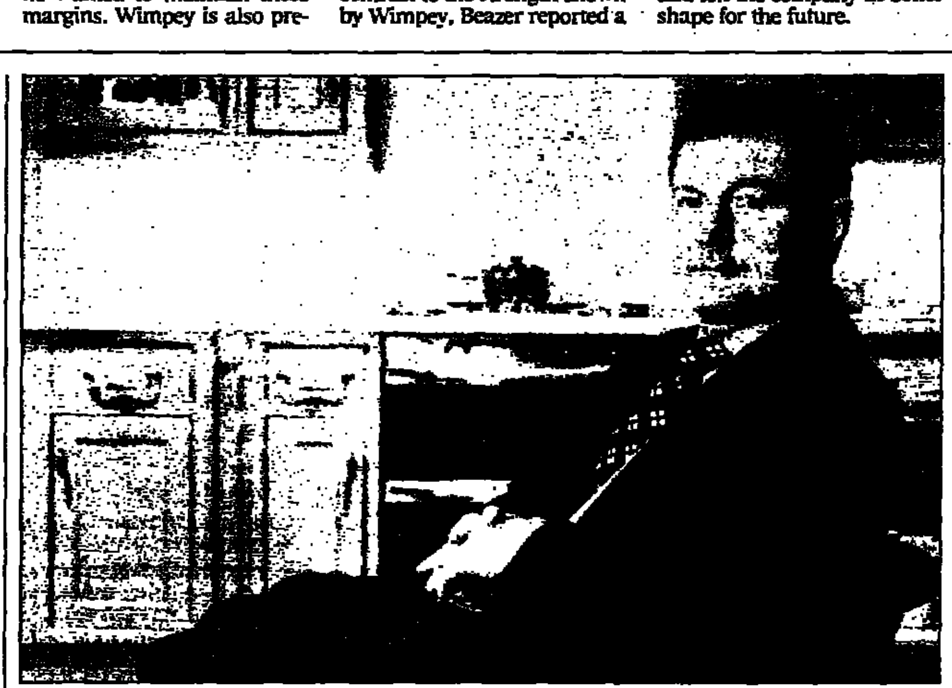
By Richard Miles

IRISH PERMANENT, which has agreed a merger with Irish Life to form the Republic's third-largest financial services company, said yesterday it had a war chest of more than Ir£300 million (£260 million) to spend on acquisitions.

Reporting a 21 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to Ir£66.7 million, Roy Douglas, chief executive, said the group could spend between Ir£300 million and Ir£400 million on a deal. He also confirmed interest in buying the state-owned ICC Bank, likely to be privatised later this year.

Permanent, the country's top mortgage lender, said it expected to complete its Ir£2.8 billion merger with Irish Life by the end of April, bringing it closer to market leaders Allied Irish Banks and the Bank of Ireland.

The company said total new lending in 1998 leapt 38 per cent to Ir£1.5 billion. Net interest margins improved, as did its other income revenues. Cost-income ratio fell to 51.5 per cent from 54.8 per cent. Permanent will pay a total dividend of Ir19.5p per share, a rise of 13.4 per cent.



John Randall leaves with a £454,000 payoff package. He had been at MFI for 20 years

Randall ousted at MFI

JOHN RANDALL has been ousted as chief executive of MFI, leaving the company after 20 years with a £454,000 payoff package. His departure was announced as the troubled furniture retailer issued another profits warning (Fraser Nelson writes).

Derek Hunt, chairman, told Mr Randall that the board had lost confidence in him. John Hancock, the US director of WH Smith, is to become the new chief executive — two months after joining MFI as a non-executive director.

Mr Hunt, who is due to retire as chairman in September, said he may now be persuaded to stay on to oversee the changeover. He said: "I could not bear to leave the company without seeing it in the right hands."

Mr Hancock said he will be looking at a range of reforms, and has not ruled out dropping the MFI brand name in an attempt to take it upmarket.

Mr Randall will receive £302,000 due from his 12-month contract and £152,000 in accrued pension payments. His share options, exercisable at 115p and 120p, are worthless as the companies shares are now 36p, sliding 1p yesterday.

MFI said its underlying sales in the past four months are 14 per cent lower than last time.

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Mortgage protection boost

By Paula Hawkins

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) yesterday announced minimum specifications for mortgage payment protection.

The move is intended to encourage more homeowners to insure themselves against the threat of illness or redundancy.

Under the guidelines, all accident, sickness and unemployment (ASU) policies will pay out after a maximum of 60 days and for no less than 12 months after that. Any changes to the cost or conditions of policies can only be made with six months' notice. The standards will allow "fewer automatic exclusions for medical conditions", according to the CML.

There is also improved cover for self-employed people or those in part-time employment. Contract workers will be able to make claims provided they have worked for the same employer for a year, while the self-employed are covered provided they have filed for bankruptcy and have registered for the Job Seeker's Allowance.

The guidelines take effect from July 1 for new policies and July 1, 2001, for existing policies.

Not so fast, prime minister



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Tony Blair insisted yesterday that he was not signalling a change of policy, merely a change of gear, in Britain's move towards euroland. If he changes gear with his foot on the accelerator, as he appears to be advocating, Cherie and the children might be well advised to take the bus in future.

With this gear change, he admits to advocating government spending on systems which may never be needed. What is more, he calls on business to do the same. Businessmen, even those who want to see Britain's earliest possible entry into euroland, should ignore such exhortations. Shareholders would have every reason to feel aggrieved if their companies started to invest now in preparation for something which may never happen. Until there is a commitment to Britain joining the single currency, it would be foolhardy for organisations to pay for the preparations that would then be necessary. Even Mr Blair in his most presidential gear has accepted that there must be a referendum before that can happen, albeit that the economic tests he and Chancellor Gordon Brown have formulated are regarded as sufficiently flexible as to constitute no obstacle.

Britain's banks have already been made aware of the Government's view that they should be making ready for Britain's entry into the single currency. They have responded politely, but firmly, that they do not intend to gamble in that way. They are already investing heavily in preparing for the certainty that the year 2000 will arrive. They have coped perfectly happily with the advent of the euro.

But banks, as other businesses, are used to dealing with foreign currencies. That does not lead inevitably to them giving up their own. Mr Blair made much yesterday of the fact that 86 per cent of large retailers have suppliers in the eurozone and 44 per cent of them are planning to pay those suppliers in euros. This was, apparently, seen as demonstrative of the fact that we are almost in euroland. But as Mr Blair should know from the brand names that his children parade across their chests, many British retailers also have suppliers in the United States. It is a fair bet that plenty of those are paid in dollars. Such transactions have been going on happily for many years and without benefit of a National Changeover Plan.

The debate about the single currency is not yet over and business should not be bamboozled into believing that it is. Neither should the Department of Social Security or other government departments be spending taxpayers' money on false assumptions. The indications are that the public sector still has enormous work to do in eradicating the millennium bug. That is where systems expenditure and effort should be concentrated until our entry into euroland is agreed.

Eddie's confusion costs us too much

Eddie George is one of those fellows who knows so much and yet so little. In humble mood yesterday, the Governor confessed to the Commons Treasury Select Committee that he found the continued strength of sterling against the euro difficult to explain. As he was speaking the euro fell to its lowest ever against our threatened currency, about 67.8p.

Allowing for conversion from marks or francs, that is the sort of exchange rate that in 1998 brought the biggest UK trade deficit with the rest of the world since 1989. That was the year that our economy was overheating ahead of a painful recession induced by monetary policy.

Few would contend that the UK economy was overheating in 1998. Rather, it just managed to reach the end of December without stopping altogether.

Others might not find the euro's weakness against the pound so hard to explain. Even after the latest Bank of England interest rate cut and before the expected cut by the European Central Bank in a month's time there is still a 2.5 point gap between the ECB's euro rate of 3 per cent and the UK base rate of 5.5 per cent.

Currency trends are about expectations rather than absolutes. Even DeAnne Julius, the dove who flies sorties from the ark of the Monetary Policy Committee, argued that UK monetary policy was now in the neutral zone of 4-6 per cent. If that means anything, it is that any rate below 4 per cent would be a deliberate attempt to get a slumping economy moving and stop prices falling. And that is not likely.

The Governor provided the other side of the explanation for the euro's hardly sparkling debut: America's economy has been more robust than expected while that of continental Europe has been weaker.

Expectations being what counts, euroland's failure to live up to them is more damaging than the UK's comparatively, but expectedly, slower growth. The implication for any trader is that UK short-term rates will remain higher than those obtainable on euro funds for the foreseeable future, probably by a comfortable margin. And what that means for anyone who has to compete with suppliers overseas is that life is not going to get any easier.

A short-term benefit to exporters is not, however, a strong enough reason for a long-term move into euroland.

Pulling all the right Unilevers

Niall FitzGerald, who enthuses over the single currency as vociferously as he warns of the perils of the millennium bug, was the hero of the stock market yesterday having admitted that his shareholders could probably use £5 billion better than he could.

Institutional investors applaud such honesty rather than regarding it as evidence of a lack of imagination. But then they too demonstrate a singular lack of imagination with what to do with the cash. As the FTSE 100 shot up yesterday, the 250 barely moved. Fund managers do not want to look beyond the majors, so if Footsie companies insist on handing them back their cash, the chances are that it will not be long before it is piled back into the same stocks.

The proceeds from selling its speciality chemicals business to ICI have been sitting in Unilever's pockets for a couple of years. There have been acquisitions during that time but not the big deal that the gossips had advocated. This special dividend does not preclude an opportunistic pounce by Mr FitzGerald, but it has enhanced his reputation in the City. His former colleague, Charles Miller Smith, who handed him the £5 billion has not fared so well. Far from handing cash back to shareholders, ICI is the proud possessor of a speciality chemicals business, but may be forced to cut its dividend in the next 12 months.

Hancock's hour

HOW far-sighted of John Hancock to have accepted a non-executive directorship of MFI last year. Now that the dismal performer has dispensed with the services of its chief executive, Mr Hancock can slide smoothly into the role without any head-hunting fees. But has John Randall's abrupt departure been enough to preserve Derek Hunt's reign as chairman? If he survives past his professed September retirement date, it will be proof that Mr Hunt is made of tougher stuff than some MFI furniture.

BG set to avoid regulator with Transco revamp

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

BG, the company which owns Transco, Britain's gas pipeline company, is developing plans to create a £1 billion business out of Transco's operations and maintenance activities in order to shift a large part of BG's business out of the control of the industry regulator.

The restructuring of Transco would separate the management of its £12 billion of pipeline assets from the operational side of the business, opening the door to competitive tendering and subcontracting in a similar way to how Railtrack runs the railways. Ultimately, the operations could be demerged.

Philip Hampton, finance director of BG said the plan was to generate value by creating a competitive business which would escape regulatory control. "The regulator continues to tighten the screw on costs but if you get more transparency, there is no longer an argument about what the costs should be."

BG also announced plans to merge the management of its upstream exploration and international gas businesses under the leadership of Frank Chapman, exploration director. At the same time, BG revealed a rise in fourth-quarter pre-tax profit from £373 million to £426 million and a final dividend increase of 7.5 per cent to 4.3p, making a full-year payout of 8.6p.

Transco's operating profits surged from £253 million to £444 million, thanks to colder weather which helped to boost volumes by 4 per cent, offsetting a 1997 price cut of 13 per cent.

David Varney, BG's chief executive said that the merger of the upstream exploration arm and BG's international gas business would sharpen its competitive edge. However, he denied that it was a prelude to a demerger. BG's upstream was forced to write down its investment in KomiArctic Oil, a Russian joint venture, by £8 million, leaving profits of £31 million for the quarter. Production was up 18 per cent but the growth was more than offset by falling oil and gas prices.

Mr Varney sought to dampen speculation that BG was plotting a bid for either Lasmo or Enterprise, the two oil explorers currently in merger discussions. Referring to the option of growth by acquisition, he said: "Assets are still fully priced."

Mr Hampton said that shifting Transco's operational businesses out of regulatory control could create scope for profitable divestments. They represent cash expenditure of about £1 billion including employment costs of £600 million.

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Generators spiked

By Christine Buckley

POWER generators face new restrictions on their ability to increase the price of electricity before an overhaul of the market.

Callum McCarthy, the electricity and gas regulator, yesterday set out proposals to streamline the bidding process so that price spikes will be minimised. There is a fear that, before the market — the electricity pool — is completely reorganised next year, the generators will indulge in greater manipulation, than they are already accused of.

The plans are designed to cut prices before the market is changed without imposing a price cap. John Battle, the Energy and Industry Minister, said: "We are determined that customers should not suffer as a result of the ability of generators to manipulate pool prices."

NYSE open all hours

By Oliver August

RICHARD GRASSO, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, yesterday suggested that the world's biggest stock market could soon be open for trading almost 24 hours a day. In a bid to fight off competition from other markets, the NYSE is expected to lengthen trading hours in June next year.

Mr Grasso said: "It is not unreasonable to expect the Big Board to open at 5am and close at midnight." Currently, trading is restricted to 9.30am to 4pm.

Companies on the New York exchange are being wooed by the Nasdaq market, which is expanding quickly after the merger with the American Exchange, the third biggest US exchange.

Dealers on Nasdaq trade electronically while the New York Stock Exchange still features open outcry trading.

ABP extends buyback as earnings rise

By Paul Armstrong

ASSOCIATED British Ports Holdings has extended its £100 million share buyback by £50 million and says property sales could finance further increases.

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, said yesterday that, though it would take another ten years tofully dispose of its substantial property portfolio, shareholder value would be fully recognised by such a move as it was property investments that were responsible for ABP's poor share price performance. With ABP stock trading at about the same level as five years go, Sir Keith said the market had failed to understand its property divisions.



Stuart: property sales

His comments came after ABP announced a 4.6 per cent increase in 1998 pre-tax earnings to £110.2 million, which failed to move its shares in a generally buoyant trading day on the market. Though the results were in line with market expectations, the shares closed 3p lower at 262p. A final dividend of 5.75p takes the full-year payout to 10.25p (9p).

The company's ports division managed a 9 per cent rise in operating profit to £126.7 million after big falls in steel exports were offset by higher volumes of grain, vehicles and petroleum products. Sir Keith said ABP was exposed to the impact of the Asian economic crisis on many British exports but profit margins had held up.

He did not envisage increased price pressure this year, partly because of the long-term nature of ABP's port contracts.

The property investment division, which generates rental income, reported a 14 per cent rise in operating profit to £16.7 million. Earnings from property development, which includes land sales, were 5 per cent higher at £6.8 million.

Admiral shares on the slide

Shares of Admiral, the IT services group, fell 9 per cent after the company reported results that failed to satisfy analysts' expectations. Admiral reported a 34 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 from £17.5 million to £23.5 million on sales of £147 million, up 26 per cent. Normalised earnings per share rose from 17.8p to 25.2p. The company said it would pay a final dividend of 2.4p (2p), bringing the total for the year to 3.5p, up from 2.9p. Shares of the company fell from £14.17½ to £12.90. Tempus, page 28

Eidos Net service

Eidos, the video games publisher behind titles such as *Tomb Raider* and *Michael Owen's World League Soccer* yesterday became the latest company to offer a free Internet access service. The service offers multiple e-mail addresses, 20MB of personal web space, a news service, and telephone support charged at 50p a minute.

Biomedix search

KS Biomedix is seeking marketing partners for its treatment for osteoarthritis, which has completed a phase II trial that suggested it was more effective than an existing therapy. Losses for the six months to November 30 were £534,000 (£557,000 loss).

Regulator blocks Olivetti

By Carl Mortished

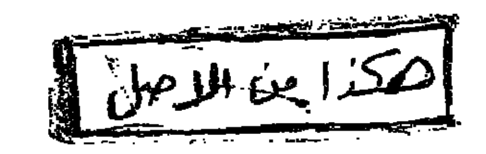
OLIVETTI reacted angrily yesterday to the decision by Consob, the Italian regulator, to reject its £36 billion bid for Telecom Italia. The ambitious conglomerate is now scrambling to put together a firm offer in order to pre-empt any attempt by the privatised utility to erect defences to a takeover.

Olivetti accused Consob yesterday of reaching a decision without consultation. It said: "Consob's decision has been reached having received only comments of Telecom Italia and not those of Olivetti."

The decision by Consob, the Italian stock exchange regulator, to reject the bid has dramatically increased the pressure on Olivetti. Franco Bernabe, chief executive of Telecom Italia, is expected to reveal Telecom's industrial strategy later this week, an opportunity to wrong-foot Olivetti's bid strategy.

The board of Olivetti will today consider a five trillion lire cash call on its shareholders to create a war chest to finance its bid. The capital raising is likely to be underwritten by Bell, a Luxembourg company and 13 per cent shareholder that is controlled by Roberto Colaninno, Olivetti's chief executive.

The underwriting will fuel the concern of Telecom Italia shareholders that a minority of Olivetti investors will end up controlling Europe's third-largest telephone company.



STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

FTSE 100 comes within whisker of record high

INVESTORS had the bit between their teeth as the market came within a whisker of its record closing high.

Wall Street's continuing advance on the 10,000 level at the outset of trading fuelled the latest buying spree in London, although prices did close below their best levels of the day.

Even so, the FTSE 100 index touched 6,185.2 before eventually closing 85.3 higher at 6,155.2, just 23.8 short of its record close of 6,179.0, achieved in July last year.

Attention switched back to blue chip stocks with secondliners struggling to make headway. This was reflected in the FTSE 250 index which finished 5.7 up at 5,186.4. A total of 922 million shares changed hands.

Investor enthusiasm was also fuelled by the better than expected results from **NatWest Bank**, up 45p to £13.19, after briefly touching £13.78, and the £5 billion special payment for shareholders proposed by **Unilever**, 1p lighter at 624½p, after hitting 658½p.

There was also a positive response to final results from **BG**, up 3¼p to 364½p, which revealed a strong final-quarter performance from its Transco division. The company announced plans to merge its exploration and production and downstream divisions but refused to comment on speculation that it might bid for either **Lasmo**, steady at 110p, or **Enterprise Oil**, ¼p firmer at 239p.

CGU was a nervous market ahead of final results today falling 18½p to 929p. Brokers are braced for a near-halving of pre-tax profits to £500 million, although there should be scope for an increase in the dividend from 32½p to 35½p.

Vodafone received a welcome boost from Merrill Lynch, the broker, that sent the price climbing 33p to £11.72. It is still looking for a target price for the shares of £15 by the year end and has raised its profit forecast for 2000 to £1 billion followed by £1.42 billion in 2001. Merrill says the mobile phone market remains a growth area and forecasts that Vodafone could achieve 70 per cent market penetration by 2004.

A "buy" recommendation from BT Alex Brown, the broker, provided **Gallaher** with a rise of 3½p to 423p. Tony Silverman at BTAB says the shares have underperformed rival **Imperial Tobacco**, up 4p to 726½p, by 16 per cent since October.

Some bullish comments from Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, bolstered **Nycomed Amersham** 21½p to 410½p. It rates the shares a "strong buy" and has raised its target price from 460p to 525p.

Price war worries left **Tesco** ½p lighter at 172½p ahead of a meeting with brokers. The company has just announced price cuts on a number of leading lines estimated to be worth £60 million. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, says the move by Tesco is bad news for the rest of the sector. **Somerfield** fell 11p to 341½p, **Iceland** 8p to 259½p and **Morrison Supermarkets** 4½p to 315p.

Ladbroke rose 1½p to 272p as ABN Amro, the broker, moved its recommendation from "undervalued" to "buy" and set a target price of 300p. **Stakis** rose 3p to 159½p in sympathy.

Devro came bouncing off its lows with a rise of 18½p to 163p. The maker of sausage skins is clearly vulnerable to a bid having seen its price drop from a peak of 545p in May, last year, following several profit warnings.

Colin Bramall, the new finance director at **Universal Salvage**, has purchased 5,000 shares in the company. The price responded with a rise of 2p to 59½p.

BGR Group advanced 20p to 150p following an upbeat post-results presentation for brokers and fund managers on Monday night. It coincided with the opening of a new restaurant called Fish, in Borough Market, South London. BGR is expected to develop Fish into a nationwide chain.

Confirmation that it was in bid talks gave **Coutts Consulting** a boost with the price adding 7p, or almost 25 per cent, to 35½p. At these levels, the group carries a price tag of £17.5 million. News of a bid approach lifted **BS Group** 25p to 145p.

A profits warning from **Calluna** after the close of official business left the shares nursing a fall of 4p at 23p. The computer drive specialist says profits for the full year will be substantially below expectations. Almost ten million shares had changed before the close.

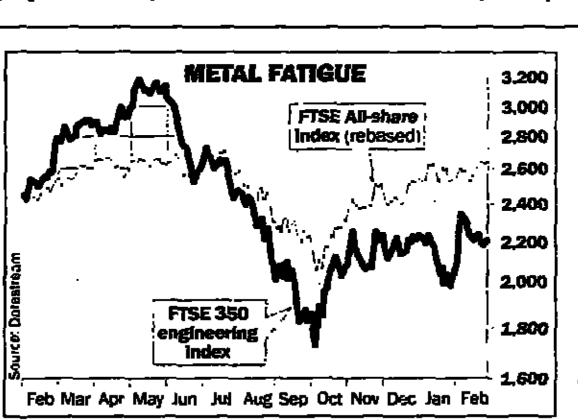
MFI Furniture was also hit by a late profits warning leaving the price 1p easier at 36p. John Randall has resigned as chief executive and will be replaced by John Hancock.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices enjoyed an early mark up but then spent the rest of the day trading in narrow limits. Attempts to sell off the long gilt future failed with brokers reporting support around the £117.80 level. In the event, it closed 29p better at £117.86 as the total number of contracts completed reached 33,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 62p to £149.58, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 9p dearer at £107.27.

□ **NEW YORK:** US shares were mixed in choppy trading as investors reacted to Alan Greenspan's comments about the economy. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 15.73 points to 9,568.41.



David Varney, chief executive, left, and Philip Hampton, finance director of BG, which closed 3¼p better at 364½p



THIS week has seen a revival in the fortunes of Britain's engineers. Support has been forthcoming for the likes of Weir Group, up 1½p at 266½p, having already slumped from a low of 307p.

Others that have started to attract attention include Delta, up 6½p at 117½p, TI Group, 8p firmer at 380p, Cookson, 2¼p at 144p, and Cammell Laird 27½p dearer at 762½p.

But brokers such as BT Alex Brown are cautious.

John Pearson at BTAB says: "The recent recovery in the UK engineering sectors may be short lived if, as we expect, trading continues to deteriorate in 1999".

He believes that evidence of the market stabilising is limited and the risks to forecasts of the general engineers, in particular, remain on the downside.

His favoured strategy would be to continue buying aerospace and defence stocks. British Aerospace, 6¼p dearer at 427½p, and Smiths Industries, 10p up at £10, are both seen as a "buy".

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9568.41 (+15.73)
S&P Composite	1275.14 (+3.00)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14500.65 (+243.98)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9433.99 (+204.65)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	536.69 (+8.38)
Sydney:	
AO	2924.0 (+7.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4987.56 (+142.38)
Singapore:	
Straits	1400.43 (+0.25)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3444.30 (-0.64)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4207.95 (+42.09)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1370.10 (+4.30)
London:	
FT 30	3722.9 (+35.6)
FTSE 100	6155.2 (+85.3)
FTSE 250	5186.4 (+5.7)
FTSE 350	2910.4 (+34.7)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2845.01 (+36.11)
FTSE All-Share	2812.38 (+32.41)
FTSE Non Financials	2855.04 (+27.95)
FTSE Fixed Interest	156.65 (+0.49)
FTSE Govt Secs	115.32 (+0.60)
Bargains	82222
SEAQ Volume	922.5m
US$	1.6111 (-0.0116)
Euro	0.6816 (+0.0018)
£ SDR	1.1853
Exchange Index	101.6 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100		.
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88		...
Acorn Income Fund	101½		...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	98		..
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	120		..
Close Bros Dev VCT	100		...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100¾	−	1
Gander Properties	7¼		...
Golden Prospect	29½		..
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	107¾	+	¼
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98½	+	¼
NBA Quantum	109½		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ambient Media n/p (49)	¾	...
Brancote n/p (10)	1½	...
Peptide Therapeutics n/p (78)	21	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
BS Group	145	+ 25	+ 20.8
Vymura	73½	+ 10½	+ 16.6
BGR	150	+ 20	+ 15.3
Devro	163	+ 18½	+ 12.8
NXT	481½	+ 52½	+ 12.2
Easynet	261	+ 26	+ 11.0
Versailles Grp	117	+ 11½	+ 10.9
Benchmark	179½	+ 14	+ 8.4
Access Plus	220	+ 15	+ 7.3
Vanguard	185	+ 12½	+ 7.2
Cap & Regnl	205	+ 13½	+ 7.0
Lorien	152½	+ 10	+ 7.0
Bayer DM50	2187½	+ 137½	+ 6.7
Erdos	1447½	+ 90	+ 6.6
3i	636½	+ 35½	+ 5.9
Volex	410	+ 22½	+ 5.8
Hanson	502	+ 24½	+ 5.1
Am Gen	4684⅝	+ 228⅛	+ 5.1
Harvey Nash	380	+ 17½	+ 4.8
Select App	746½	+ 34	+ 4.7
Impala Plat	1128⅛	+ 50	+ 4.6
Hitachi Cred	314	+ 13½	+ 4.4
HSBC HK	1647	+ 70	+ 4.4
Thomson Corp	1553	+ 63¼	+ 4.2

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Central Pacific	202¼	− 24¾	− 10.9
Admiral	1290	− 127½	− 8.9
Wren	99	− 7½	− 7.0
Peel	490	− 32½	− 6.2
Computacenter	517½	− 24	− 4.4
Cobham	802½	− 35	− 4.1
Hornby	235	− 10	− 4.0
GKN	813	− 32	− 3.7
Electrocomponts	366	− 14	− 3.6
Misys	630½	− 23¼	− 3.6

TEMPUS

Wild West is tamed

THE strategy at NatWest to turn its back on the complicated bits of banking to concentrate on the retail side appears to be working. That is certainly the strong message from yesterday's annual results.

Less generous observers will point out that the profits only looked as good as they did because the group was relieved of the enormous losses incurred by NatWest Markets in 1997. But while 1998 results were clearly flattered by the absence of the losses, the fact that there was no troublesome NatWest Markets there to spoil the results only emphasised why the numbers were worthy of celebration.

The tail end of NatWest's investment banking exposure may return to cast a shadow. Profits flowing from the normal retail branch banking are undeniably flat too. But while growth will be difficult to secure in operating ordinary current accounts, there is much less risk of encountering disaster. It provides a stable platform from which the search for growth can be launched.

In these results the good growth seen in "wealth management" — Gartmore unit trusts and pensions savings management — is notable in this context. So is the mortgage business and insurance.

In adding 45p to close at £13.19 NatWest shares are within a whisker of their all-time high. Valued in dividend yield terms the shares now look fully valued, with the gross income at 3.4 per cent.

Yet Lloyds TSB shows how how profitable it is to mine the retail banking seam. NatWest, being that much further behind Lloyds in the recovery/restructuring process, has greater opportunity for finding further growth. Hold.

Admiral

ADMIRAL, the information technology consulting, software and training company, is perhaps one of the most reliable performers in the sector.

But it unnerved many yesterday by reporting profits at the lower end of estimates, and putting out a strange — and rather bearish — trading statement.

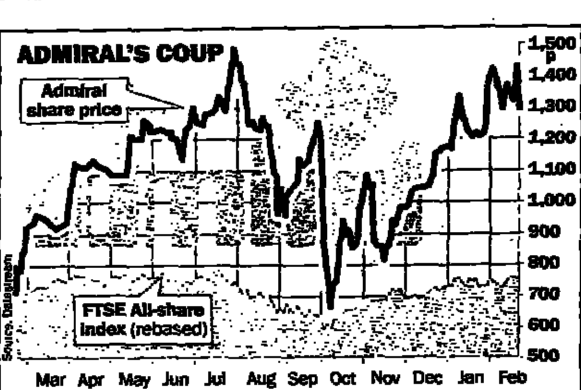
Clay Brendish, Admiral's super-slick executive chairman, seemed to hint that the company's 15 per cent margins could suffer as it focuses on its strategy of international expansion. Indeed, he made a big point of telling shareholders that he would take a three to five-year view, and "not be coloured by the needs of the short and medium term".

That sounded like investors were being softened up for bad news.

Brendish also chose to ask questions such as: "How much IT spend is on Year 2000 and Euro issues?" And: "Will current levels of growth continue?" Most investors would have preferred answers.

Admiral's margins probably will suffer with most future growth set to come from geographic expansion. Some of the puff is bound to go out of IT shares as the Millennium approaches, too. Longer term, good growth is sustainable, but given the go-slower signals from the firm it is not surprising that Admiral's shares fell 9 per cent yesterday.

Admittedly the shares have run up strongly in the past few days but it trades on more than 40 times' forecast earnings. This is the wrong time to chase the shares.



BG

BG IS doing remarkably well upstream. Last year it achieved the extraordinary feat of finding hydrocarbons in 25 out of the 35 wells it drilled. Such a record is unsustainable longer term but shows that the old gas utility is no amateur at the drillbit.

Now it has merged the exploration with the international gas arm. BG is moving closer towards a business with an independent indentity and one which, were the oil price a bit higher, would have ample cashflow to finance itself.

The BG board insists that exploration and international gas has synergies with Transco, the household pipeline business. The British Gas name may still open doors in emerging markets but nomenclature is hardly sufficient reason to keep disparate businesses together.

BG is trying to do all the right things, gearing up its balance sheet, taking more of Transco's operation out from under the regulatory cosh and improving the performance of the upstream arm.

But the faster BG reforms itself, the greater the argument to demerge, again. Exploration and international gas is a more speculative business, needing more equity than the safe Transco utility.

Investors should get a hefty cash repayment later this year from the Transco side. Demerger of the upstream side cannot be discounted either. The transformation of BG is definitely not over. Hold.

Housebuilders

DESPITE the mini-rally in the value of shares in quoted UK housbuilders over the past month, the stocks still trade at levels that look miserably low in comparison with their history and against many other more fashionable sectors.

Wimpey shares change hands at just 7.5 times for the year just reported. Shares in the less attractive Beazer, with its interims published yesterday, are trading on a multiple of 8.5 times forecast earnings for the full year ending in June.

Housebuilders are unlikely to ascend to, or deserve, super-premium ratings. But there are good reasons to have exposure to the sector. There is pent up demand for housing in the country as planning constrictions restrict supply. Houses are becoming more affordable with every interest cut, and housebuilders are capitalising by building and selling bigger houses. There is potential for takeover excitement as well.

Wimpey appears to offer better value to investors than Beazer. It seems more determined to please and the US exposure gives more growth excitement.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	925-923	May	1019-1208
May	917-910	Jul	1025-1023
Jul	934-933	Sep	1042-1037
Sep	947-946	Dec	1055-1055
Dec	967-318		
Mar	988 SLP		Volume: [illegible]

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Mar	1718-1715	Nov	[illegible]
May	1650-1547	Jan	[illegible]
Jul	1632-1635	Mar	[illegible]
Sep	1632-1625		Volume: [illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

[illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 23

[illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

[illegible]

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

[illegible]

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd) GAS OIL

[illegible]

BRENT (6.00pm)

[illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t) — LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

[illegible]

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

[illegible]

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

[illegible]

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10 pt)

[illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	118.94	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5-Year Gilt	[illegible]				[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Italian Govt Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japanese Govt Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3-Mth Sterling	[illegible]						
3-Mth Euribor	[illegible]						
3-Mth Euroswiss	[illegible]						
3-Mth Euro Libor	[illegible]						
FTSE 100	[illegible]						

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: [illegible]

Discount Market Loans: [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]				
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]				
Interbank	[illegible]				
Local Authority Deps	[illegible]				
Sterling CDs	[illegible]				
Dollar CDs	[illegible]				
Building Society CDs	[illegible]				

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar	[illegible]				
Sterling	[illegible]				
Euro	[illegible]				
Yen	[illegible]				
Canada	[illegible]				

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

[illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for February 23 — Range — Close — 1 month — 3 Month

[illegible]

Source: Extel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5661-1.5686
Canada	1.4962-1.4972
Denmark	6.7770-6.7790
Euro	1.0962-1.0972
Hong Kong	7.7480-7.7485
Japan	121.55-121.65
Malaysia	3.7997-3.8002
Norway	7.9005-7.9105
Singapore	1.7215-1.7225
Sweden	8.1120-8.1220
Switzerland	1.4532-1.4537

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6098-1.6110
Australia dollar	2.5255-2.5303
Bahrain dinar	0.6050-0.6192
Brazil real*	3.2660-3.3025
Cyprus pound	0.8430-0.8616
Euro	1.4695-1.4719
Finland markka	8.6653-8.2050
Greece drachma	468.25-479.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.4813-12.4898
India rupee	68.12-69.72
Indonesia rupiah	13932.0-14592.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4860-0.4974
Malaysia ringgit	6.1206-6.1233
New Zealand dollar	2.9941-3.0006
Pakistan rupee	91.40 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8425-5.9799
Singapore dollar	2.7737-2.7762
S Africa rand (com)	9.9700-10.1888
U A E dirham	5.9550-6.0236

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

[illegible]

WALL STREET

Feb 23 midday — Feb 22 close

[illegible]

Le Meridien restores bistro chic to its dining rooms


Michel Rostang: not tempted by traditional British fare

Dominic Walsh reports on Granada's efforts to breathe life into the hotel chain's jaded restaurants

Despite the best efforts of Sir Terence Conran and his London rivals, France remains the gastronomic centre of the world, and it is a matter of pride that even the most humble street-corner bistros serve high-quality food at remarkable prices.

It is ironic, therefore, that it has taken British ownership for the bosses of Le Méridien Hotels & Resorts, one of France's foremost hotel chains since it was founded by Air France 27 years ago, to realise that its hotel dining facilities are letting the side down. A favourite jibe of the cynics has been that the chain's food is comparable with that found in the airline's economy class.

The result is that Méridien, part of Forte and then Granada since 1994, has signed a five-year deal with one of Paris's top chefs to breathe new life into its jaded dining rooms. Michel Rostang, whose £9 million turnover business includes a two-Michelin-starred restaurant and the popular Le Bistrot d'à Côté chain, is to be paid an estimated £100,000 a year to oversee the introduction of a number of different restaurant formats.

Bernard Lambert, managing director of Méridien, admitted that, although some of the group's hotels had attracted Michelin-starred chefs, things had become "a bit static" in recent years. "I want to get away from the hotel dining room concept," he said. "What I want to bring is a feeling that people are running their own restaurants, not simply a hotel facility. There is nothing more unpleasant than having someone putting out the coffee cups for breakfast when you're still finishing your dinner."

The first evidence of M Rostang's influence is being felt at the group's London flagship, on Piccadilly, already home to Marco Pierre White, the controversial three-Michelin-starred chef, who has a lease on the Oak Room. The company has spent £500,000 redeveloping the first-floor Terrace restaurant, which reopened this week as a brasserie serving mainly French food for about £25 to £30 a head, including wine.

M Rostang is diplomatic about the job he faces, insisting that Méridien "has a very good reputation as a hotelier". One of the first things he had to do for the London project was get round the stringent buying policies introduced by Granada after it bought Forte three years ago. "We have managed to change the policy for some products," he said. "For example, we will have poulet de Bresse rather than ordinary chicken." Asked whether he was tempted to include traditional British dishes such as steak and kidney pudding on the menu, he responded with a Gallic shrug: "I don't know how to do it."

Although M Rostang will make occasional visits across the Channel, the kitchen will be run on a full-time basis by Pascale Even, who has worked with him for almost ten years. "We're not trying to create a gastronomic restaurant," he said. "What we're trying to do is mix the gastronomic with the style of a bistro. It will be a casual restaurant with a French touch."

The second project, due to open early next year, will be at Le Méridien Étoile in Paris, the chain's first hotel, which opened in 1972. Here M Rostang has developed a less formal bistro concept that both parties hope will be capable of being rolled out across the 100-strong chain, although menus will allow for local culture. Cities already earmarked are Amsterdam, Monte Carlo, New Orleans, Dallas and Taipei, with Cologne, Frankfurt and the Ritz Madrid to follow.

"We will do half a dozen a year as a minimum, time permitting," said M Lambert.

Single currency would put UK's unconverted in a spin

Sarah Cunningham, Fraser Nelson and Caroline Merrell ask whether Britain is ready for the euro

If Britain decides to adopt the euro, one of the more rather bizarre side effects will be that security guards will find themselves much in demand. If, as the Government indicated yesterday, there are six months during which sterling and the euro run in parallel, retailers will have to accept payment in pounds and give change in euros. The guards will be needed to keep a close eye on the pounds piling up in the shops, and to ferry the currency to its final resting place.

Who will pay the wages of these guards is a moot point between the Government and the retail sector. It is by no means the only one. The British Retail Consortium had been looking for a clear three years between a referendum decision to join and the introduction of euro cash. Tony Blair told Parliament yesterday that it could be as little as two years. The BRC says that a swift conversion to the euro could cost the industry as much as £4 billion as staff training and computer programming is rushed through. Taking a full three years could cost half that total.

Mr Blair's suggestion that industry should begin making big investments now, before Britain has decided whether to join, also failed to find a welcome. Martin Cooper, a senior manager at Deloitte Consulting, said: "People will not commit shareholders' resources until it is definite."

Larger retailers that already have operations in euroland, such as Tesco, Marks & Spencer and Boots, are exceptions. They are going to have to learn to live with euros whether Britain joins or not, and have had to prepare for the new currency. Boots has estimated that it will cost £40 million to prepare for the change in The Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland, where it has stores, and the UK. Training staff will account for most of the cost.

As the Government recognises in its National Changeover Plan, there are a host of issues for the retail and financial services sectors. Of particular concern to small traders is that a long period of parallel trading would mean that they had to double their numbers of tills — one for pounds, one for euros. The larger players, with computerised systems, will have fewer problems.

Moss Bros, which owns Hugo Boss, Blazer and Cecil Gee, has programmed its computerised tills to convert any price to euros. Rowland Gee, its managing director, said: "All it took was a couple of lines of computer program. It was no problem at all."

But Mr Gee suspects that retailers do have one trick up their sleeve, which could be bad news for shoppers but good news for shops.

When sterling is finally wiped out, he says, retailers will find that a £34.99 shirt carrying a new price tag of €23.77 — a far less eye-catching price. A red-blooded retailer would be tempted to round this up €24.99 — a cheeky 5 per cent price rise.

He said: "UK retailers rounded up during decimilisation in 1971. This is already happening in Germany — 29 marks works out at something like €14.50, and that's not a very attractive price. So they mark it up, and you have a bit of inflation creeping in."

Among the smaller companies, slot machine operators will suffer some of the worst upheavals. In the last few years the industry has had to accommodate the new 5p, 50p and £2 coins — but the industry is now having to prepare for a complete changeover.

Steve Jones owns Plymouth Fruit Machines, which rents out about 175 slot machines to clubs and pubs along the south coast of England. He said: "This will be very, very difficult for us. It cost us £6,500 to accept the new 50p pieces. With the euro it will be a whole new coin set, so the cost will be double that at least."

The coin slots are normally big enough to cope with anything, and will not need to be altered. Conversion is a matter of teaching the machines to recognise different weights of new coins — this can be done by changing the microchip.

Mr Jones says he can either call in mechanics, who charge about £35 per machine, or buy his own microchips and software at a cost of £1,500 — and take a hit on profits.

The fruit machine producers are in a much better position. Almost all of the main players supply continental Europe as well as the UK, so they won't need the 30 months to come up with new technology.

MayGay, the UK's largest independent fruit machine producer, churns out about 20,000 units a year from its 200-strong workforce in Wolverhampton. Dean Harding, its sales director, said: "Because we export to other countries, we're going to take the pain and get on the learning curve. By the time the euro is introduced to the UK, we'll have the discipline under our belt."

At the other end of the scale, the big banks are also facing big headaches. NatWest revealed yesterday that it had already spent £45 million on adapting its systems to dealing with the UK being out of the euro. Derek Wanless, chief executive, admitted that it would have to spend many multiples of that amount to adapt the bank's systems to the UK joining the single currency.

The bank itself is neutral on whether the UK should join the euro or stay out. Tony Willis, group EMU coordinator, said: "Half of the money spent is on IT issues, while the rest is spent on training up staff." He admitted that there was bound to be some effect on the foreign exchange revenue generated by the bank as a result of joining the single currency. However, the revenue lost on foreign exchange because the bank was no longer trading sterling against the euro could be made up by trading the euro against the dollar and the yen.

Margaret Soden, Midland Bank's senior manager of EMU planning, said: "Money has been spent on the wholesale market operation. We have spent money on adapting the major corporate foreign currency accounts." She also pointed out that the bank has expanded the payment mechanisms it offered its customers as part of its preparations.

Lloyds TSB has already spent £23 million on the euro project, and expects to see the total rise to £32 million. The bank, which has 14 million customers, said that if the UK joins the single currency, the costs could top £200 million.


M&S has already started displaying prices in both euros and guilders in The Netherlands

M&S STAYS IN THE VAN

MARKS & SPENCER, which has stores across Europe, is by common consent the best prepared of all Britain's retailers for the introduction of the euro. Preparation has not been cheap, however. The retailer has spent £150 million on developing and fitting a whole new till system. Other costs, including the training of staff, come on top of that.

The company is keen to emphasise that its decision to prepare so thoroughly for the euro was by no means a political one: it simply became a necessity as the countries which it had expanded into across Europe — including France, Germany, The Netherlands and Spain — decided to adopt the single currency in the first wave. "One of the advantages of the split of the business is that we can learn from what's happening in continental Europe," a spokesman said.

Although euro notes and coins are not going to be introduced in euroland until 2002, the company has already started displaying prices in both euros and guilders in The Netherlands. It will start doing the same in other parts of euroland in the coming months. The new tills will show transaction costs in both the national currency and euros.

The 11,000 tills, the backbone of Marks & Spencer's euro preparation, will be fitted by the end of this year. At that point, the company will be as ready as can be reasonably expected for the single currency.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

[illegible] FEAR COSTS BEFORE EMU

Banks will be in the frontline when it comes to explaining the real implications of the euro to the public. However, they are reluctant to commit themselves to spending hundreds of millions of pounds before the Government sets a clear date for joining European Monetary Union.

Judging by the experience of European banks, Ian Harley, chief executive of Abbey National, believes that making his organisation euro-ready will cost three or four times the £120 million it has spent on the millennium bug problem. Abbey argues no serious public company could commit itself to spending up to £500 million of its shareholders' money before the Government has even set the date for a referendum on the euro.

Computer systems will, inevitably, form the largest part of the euro bill. Banks will have to decide how to present statements. Will customers want all transactions and balances in both currencies? With 15 million customers, this presents a big technical challenge. But banks will also have to train their staff to handle the new currency, and explain new statements to customers.

PAUL DURMAN

Best advice

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

RELATIONS between the Financial Services Authority and the trade body for the investment industry have turned fragile again. The row began when Kevin James, a researcher with the FSA, produced a paper claiming that fund managers were overcharging wildly for their services.

His research was rubbished by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, but enough leaked to embarrass the fund managers.

I have a copy of a letter that has now gone out from Philip Warland, Autif's director-general, to members. In it he queries "how a researcher in the FSA was allowed to spend so much time on such worthless research".

He says the affair has damaged the industry's relationship with the regulator and suggests how to prevent its recurrence. The FSA needs a "research advisory panel" drawn from academics, the investment industry and the regulator to decide what research the latter may carry out.

This would mean fund managers giving orders to an independent regulator, and understandably it has not gone down well at the FSA. Warland tells me he has floated the idea with a senior FSA official but has yet to hear back. I break it to him gently that the response is unlikely to be positive. "Well, there's a surprise."

ABOUT two decades ago the Financial Times *produced one of its big special reports on Nigeria after an election there. The issue was, if memory serves, scheduled for early in January but was written some time beforehand. It began along the lines of "now that Nigeria has returned to stable government..."*

On or about December 29 there was a military coup, and the whole survey had to be pulped. Yesterday the FT ran another one, again to mark the elections. This time it begins: "Nearly 40 years after it won independence from Britain..." On somewhat safer ground there, I think.

Trade off

I HAVE a statement here from Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, on the latest trade figures, which he welcomes. "This puts into perspective some of the gloomier accounts of how our exporters, backed by Government, are facing up to global difficulties," he warbles.

Is he really describing Britain's biggest trade deficit for almost a decade? Honestly, of all the bare-faced spin . . . I'm sorry. A colleague has just reminded me that Wilson started his career as a journalist.


Wilson: former journalist

TO ADD to its chagrin over the William Hill sale, I hear that Warburg Dillon Read is receiving thousands of angry letters from frustrated private investors.

There are some ingenious suggestions for reparation. If Warburgs were offering the shares at 135p in the offer and the business was sold for 150p, then surely would-be investors should be receiving an extra 15p a share, or £1,111 for every £1,000 of shares they wanted?

Then there is the chap who took five grand out of a forex account. Since the withdrawal the forex market has turned against him, and he wants his money back.

Bear faced

I HAD always thought of builders as rugged, no-nonsense chaps in hard hats. But I learn from the trade paper *Contract Journal* that one firm is buying teddy bears for managers, who are encouraged to cuddle them in times of stress and ask them: "Teddy, what do you think?"

An arresting picture, is it not? Especially in their hard hats.

David Barker, a management consultant, has been seconded to Birse to help to reclaim £40 million owed on various projects. He is maintaining an enigmatic silence, but the teddy bear idea is his, the magazine claims.

Birse is, it seems, no stranger to eye-catching stunts. Last year, in pursuance of a claim for £11 million against a Welsh local council, staff dressed up as cartoon characters such as Bugs Bunny and paraded past the council offices. Don't ask why.

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk

Inadequate cover is key to PPP dispute

From Mr Alan Shrank

If the London Consultants' Association are unhappy with PPP (February 19), one of the largest UK private medical insurance companies, because they insist on their insured being cared for only in certain hospitals, many of which they own, surely their objection is not restraint of trade but should be directed at the inadequacy of their patient's policy.

The contract that PPP has is with their insured clients. The doctor's contract is with their patient. If the insurance cover their patient enjoys does not cover treatment in the hospital the doctors regard as safe and appropriate, surely it is the policy cover that is inadequate and this should be pointed out to the patient.

When purchasing any insurance policy, whether for your car, your house or your valuables, it is essential to understand the exclusions exacted by the insurer.

Once accepted, no demand can be made of the insurer, for example, for subsidence or for theft if they have been excluded from the policy.

London hospitals excluded from health policies are either the very expensive or small independent and often charitable hospitals, while those included are often owned by the insurer, a legitimate restriction not on trade but on the policy holder.

Exclusion of the small hospitals may eventually lead to their closure and their convenience for patients, because of proximity to their home, will be lost.

It is obviously important for prospective clients to know the significance of the exclusion of particular hospitals from their insurance policies and how this would affect their private medical care.

The difficulty arises when adequate facilities are not available at the listed hospitals, a fact not always appreciated by the patient. If hazard could arise, quite properly the doctor cannot be expected to take the risk.

Insurers must be aware of this hazard, and be prepared to make necessary adjustments.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN B. SHRANK,
20 Crescent Place,
Town Walls,
Shrewsbury
SY1 1TQ.

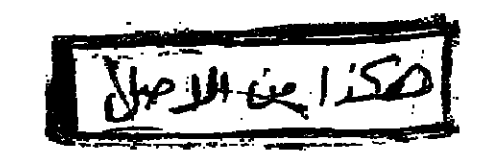
Warburg's sure thing

From Mr Eddie Walsh

Sir, After the debacle of the Thomson Travel share offer, one would think that Warburg Dillon Read would have earned its fees by being extra careful over the now pulled William Hill float.

Potential investors will be fuming while awaiting refunds of their already cashed cheques. The next time Warburgs act as flotation advisers the 3.30 at Ascot will seem a better bet.

Yours faithfully,
EDDIE WALSH,
7 Cotswold Court,
Beeston,
Nottingham,
NG9 3LJ.



AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7896

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	145.41	154.85	+ 0.86	...
-do- NAV to Jan 19	140.39	140.39		...
UK Equity Safeguard	115.87	123.92	+ 0.35	2.82
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	118.98		
US Eqy Safeguard	99.55	105.65	+ 1.57	...
Cash	952.65	957.42	...	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	443.02	471.28	+ 9.67	1.80
UK Small Cos	88.54	95.76	+ 0.41	0.60
FTSE 250 Index	105.91	113.28	+ 0.33	1.90
[illegible] UK Index	#24.879	#26.284	+ 1.04	6.75
Income Funds				
Cap Bd	88.40	91.37	+ 0.11	6.68
Monthly Inc	44.52	47.62†	+ 0.21	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	385.17	407.01	+10.24	0.17
American Strat	176.38	188.23	+ 3.82	.
JG US Index	#30.184	#31.611	+ 0.92	4.50
European Gen	441.85	467.42	+ 7.74	...
European Strat	217.38	225.42	+ 2.21	..
Japan Gen	104.51	110.59	+ 2.18	...
Asia Pacific	61.34	65.35	+ 0.22	1.09
Pacific Strat	84.24	90.09†	+ 0.83	.
Greater China	138.11	145.57	+ 0.33	...
Latin America	58.19	62.22	+ 0.13	.
Int Growth	197.85	211.18	+ 3.87	0.11
Balanced Europe	182.71	188.33		2.18
Global Strategy	47.49	50.79	+ 0.78	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MNGRS

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
[illegible]				
European	314.82	334.56	+ 5.11	0.19
Far Eastern	301.70	320.80	+ 3.80	..
UK Special Sits	73.83	78.74	+ 0.97	0.26
Fd of Inv Tsts	60.71	64.75	+ 0.73	..
High Income #	69.80	74.44	+ 0.82	4.03
Financial Opps	79.611	84.90	+ 0.87	0.72
Growth & Income #	57.72	61.56	+ 1.19	2.11
Global Opps	57.77	61.61	+ 1.18	0.71

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 [illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bridge Income #	420.03	446.84	+ 6.01	4.45
Esk Growth	148.92	158.43	+ 2.07	0.50
Inc & Growth #	104.73	111.41†	+ 2.52	2.92

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	104.00	110.80	+ 1.50	2.83
Smaller Cos	70.80	74.00†	+ 0.60	1.97
-do- Accum	153.30	162.10†	+ 1.20	1.97
Sth East Asia	223.60	236.50†	+ 2.50	2.06
-do- Accum	310.10	327.80†	+ 3.50	2.06
UK Equity #	83.40	88.20	+ 1.90	3.16
-do- Accum #	246.30	260.70	+ 5.60	3.16
UK Growth	1615.30	1708.20	+32.80	1.29
-do- Accum	1851.90	1958.50	+37.40	1.29

NEM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 01277 261 610 Enq: 01603 284 831

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	169.27	180.07	+ 3.80	0.25

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	118.95	126.55	+ 0.35	1.54
Ever Spec Sit Inc	57.82	61.51	+ 0.18	2.36
Ever Spec Sit Acc	62.35	66.33	+ 0.11	2.36
Pension Growth	57.79	61.48	+ 0.38	1.43

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Dealing: 0870 [illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Cap	611.30	648.60†	+12.50	1.31
UK Inc/Gth #	651.20	690.90†	+13.82	3.12
UK Income #	436.00	463.10†	+ 7.10	4.24
UK Income Acc #	460.80	487.20†	+ 7.40	4.24
UK Sm Cos	335.80	359.10	− 0.72	1.00
Euro Gwth	260.50	275.40†	+ 5.50	0.25
N Amer Gwth	190.90	201.80	+ 5.09	
Pacific Growth	5.64	5.98†	+ 0.07	0.29
Emrg Mkts Gwth	51.52	54.65†	+ 0.32	..
Japan Growth	45.77	48.38	+ 0.74	..

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	65.43	68.74	+ 0.20	2.78
Intl Equity Growth	117.00	124.06	+ 2.79	0.38
N Amer Growth	224.81	238.30	+ 5.85	0.28
Special Sits Growth	41.08	43.71	+ 0.73	1.13
UK Growth	672.95	715.90	+13.13	1.50
-do- Accum	967.79	1029.56	+18.87	1.50

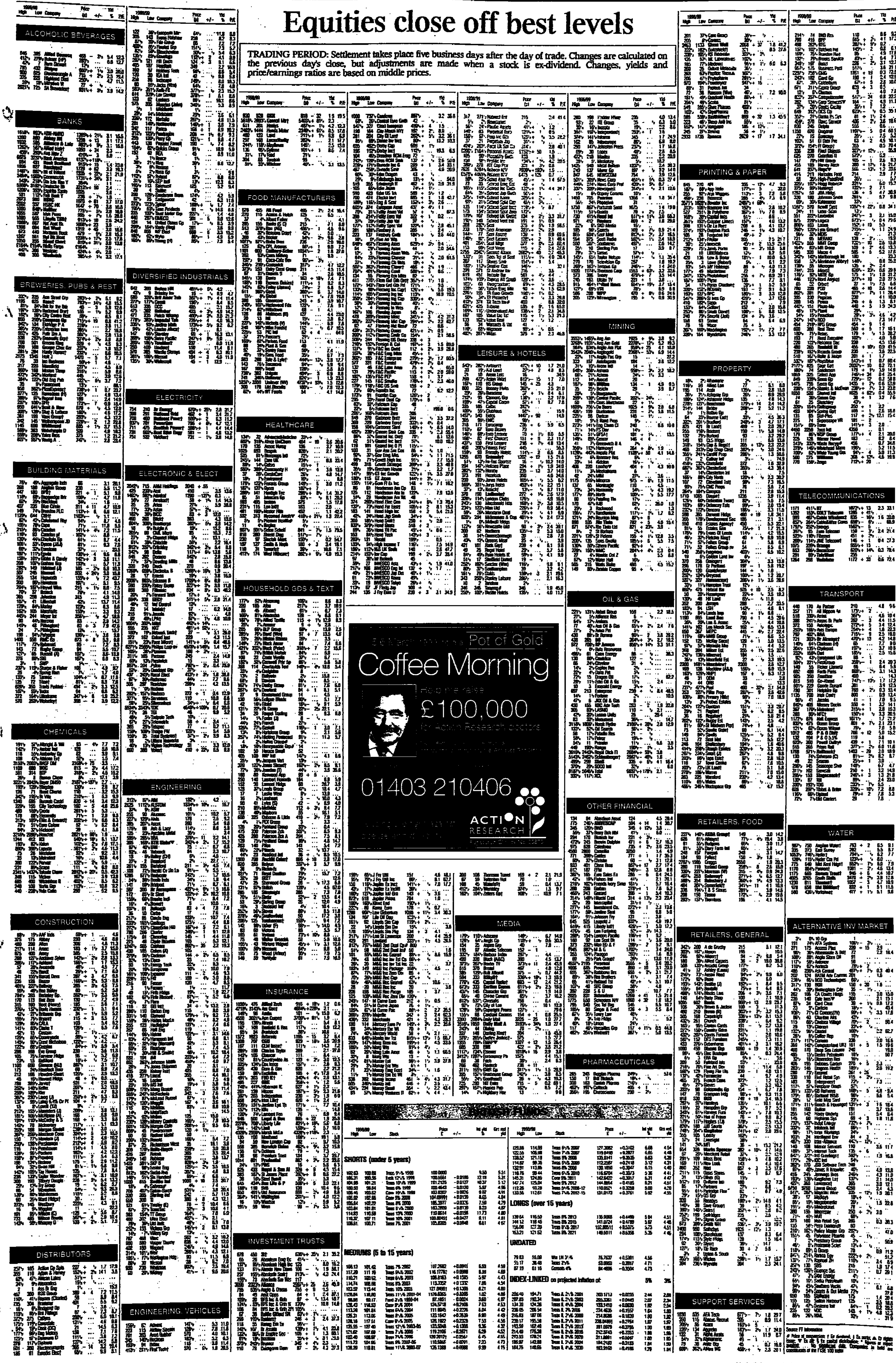
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01628 [illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1527.00	1549.40†		2.90
Income #	1270.60	1291.40†		4

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	204.20	208.50	...	3

MARKS INVESTMENT MGMT LTD



Equities close off best levels

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Court of Appeal

Law Report February 24 1999

Court of Appeal

Controlling shareholder can be employee

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Bottrill

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Mantell

[Judgment February 12]

A controlling shareholder of a company could also be an employee of that company who was entitled under the Employment Rights Act 1996 to recover from the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry money owed by the company when it became insolvent.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Morison, President, Mr A. C. Blyghton and Mrs R. Chapman) ([1998] ICR 564) to uphold *the decision of the industrial* tribunal that Mr Peter Bottrill was entitled to claim a payment from the secretary of state under section 184 of the 1996 Act.

Ms Jennifer Eady for the secretary of state; Mr Martyn Barklem for Mr Bottrill.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that whether a person who was a controlling shareholder of a company could also be an employee of that company for the purposes of the 1996 Act was an issue on which there had been conflicting previous decisions.

In *Buchan v Secretary of State for Employment* ([1997] IRLR 80) the Employment Appeal Tribunal had decided that a controlling shareholder could not be an employee for that purpose.

In *Fleming v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry* ([1997] IRLR 682) the Inner House of the *Court of Session did not apply Buchan* and had decided that a controlling shareholder could be an employee.

Whether he was an employee or not depended on all the circumstances. A similar view had been taken by the appeal tribunal in the present case.

The significance of the issue was that if the controlling shareholder was an employee, then upon any of the conditions specified in section 166(7) being satisfied, broadly speaking on insolvency, as an employee, the controlling shareholder was entitled to recover certain sums, which would otherwise be owing from the company, from the secretary of state in accordance with the provisions of the Act, including statutory redundancy payments (section 166), unpaid wages and holiday pay and moneys in lieu of notice, the basic award of compensation in respect of unfair dismissal and other payments, including protective awards, and moneys due for time taken off work for trade union duties, etc (section 184).

Mr Bottrill had become managing director of Magnatech UK Ltd in 1994. There had been one other director and two other individuals had been employees.

The one share of the company which was issued had been held by Mr Bottrill. It had, however, been intended in the future that an American group, which supplied Magnatech with all items for sale, would hold 80 per cent of the shares in the company.

A draft shareholders' agreement describing the proposed relationship between the group and Magnatech had been prepared.

However, before the agreement was executed, Magnatech had become insolvent. At that time Mr Bottrill was still the sole shareholder. A receiver had been appointed. Mr Bottrill had become redundant and had been dismissed.

The industrial tribunal, in concluding *that Mr Bottrill had been* an employee, had relied on its findings that Mr Bottrill's status as sole shareholder had only been temporary and any control which he had had of the company was only theoretical. The actual control had been held by the American group.

The tribunal had laid stress on the facts that Mr Bottrill had paid national insurance contributions and tax as if he was an employee, had been entitled to sick pay, worked fixed hours and had a contract with Magnatech that was *described as a contract of employment.*

Having considered *Fleming* and *Buchan* the court had concluded that, of the two approaches, it had no hesitation in preferring the approach in *Fleming.*

As the court understood the reasoning in *Buchan*, it was the ability of the shareholder to prevent his dismissal which was crucial and that in turn depended on his ability to use his voting rights to that end.

But shareholders in general did not have the right to interfere with management decisions save pursuant to resolutions passed in general meeting. But by then the dismissal might have occurred.

The gloss sought to be given to "employee" in the Act, based as it was on the ability of the controlling shareholder to prevent his dismissal, was all the more surprising when applied to a case such as the present when Mr Bottrill had been powerless to prevent his actual dismissal which triggered his claim.

The court recognised the attractions of having in relation to the Act a simple and clear test which would determine whether a shareholder or a director was an employee for the purposes of the Act or not. However, the Act did not provide such a test and it was far from obvious what Parliament would *have intended the test to be.*

The court did not find any justification for departing from the well *established position in the law of* employment generally. That was whether or not an employer/employee relationship existed could be decided only by having regard to all the relevant facts.

If an individual had a controlling shareholding, that was certainly a fact which was likely to be significant in all situations and in some cases it might prove to be decisive.

However, it was only one of the factors which were relevant and certainly was not to be taken as determinative without considering *all the relevant circumstances.*

Both *Fleming* and the appeal tribunal in the present case had made it clear that the scope for abuse was limited. The court would reaffirm their views as to the use of *devices to seek remedies* against the secretary of state in inappropriate circumstances.

However, those cases apart, it was right to note that, in a case such as the present where national insurance contributions had been paid, *to deprive an individual of* his claims under the Act could be to deprive unjustly that individual of the benefits to which he could properly expect to be entitled after he and his "employer" had made the appropriate contributions.

The industrial tribunal had been entitled to conclude that there had been a genuine contractual relationship between Mr Bottrill and his company and, having carefully and properly weighed the competing factors, it had arrived at a conclusion which was unimpeachable on the facts.

The secretary of state had expressly accepted that if he was wrong in supporting the approach in law in *Buchan*, the appeal had to be dismissed. He had asked the court to *provide* what *guidance* it could because of the frequency with which problems of the type exemplified by the present case arose.

The court was anxious not to lay *down rigid guidelines for the in*quiry which the tribunal of fact had to undertake in the particular circumstances of each case, but the court hoped that the following comments might be of assistance.

The first question which the tribunal was likely to wish to consider was whether there was or had been a genuine contract between the company and the shareholder.

In that context how and for what reasons the contract had come into existence, for example, whether the contract was made at a time when insolvency loomed, and what each *party actually did pursuant to* the contract were likely to be relevant considerations.

If the tribunal concluded that the contract was not a sham, it was likely to wish to consider next whether the contract, which might well have been labelled a contract of employment, actually gave rise to an employer/employee relationship.

In that context, of the various factors usually regarded as relevant, *the degree of control exercised by* the company over the shareholder employee was always important. That was not the same question as that relating to whether there was a controlling shareholding.

The tribunal might think it appropriate to consider whether there were directors other than or in addition to the shareholder employee and whether the constitution of the company gave that shareholder rights such that he was in reality answerable only to himself and incapable of being dismissed.

If he was a director, it might be relevant to consider whether he was able under the articles of association to vote on matters in which he was personally interested, such as the termination of his contract of employment. Again, the actual conduct of the parties pursuant to the terms of the contract was likely to be relevant.

It was for the tribunal as an industrial jury to take all relevant factors into account in reaching its conclusion, giving such weight to them as it considered appropriate.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Shulmans, Leeds.

Pillion passenger was using motorcycle

O'Mahoney v Joliffe and Another

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment February 15]

A pillion passenger who *knew the* motorcyle driver was uninsured and who had agreed on a joint venture to go for a drive for the thrill of the drive itself was "a person using the vehicle" within the meaning of *clause 6(1)(c)(ii) of the Motor Insurers'* Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement (1972) and could not claim compensation from the bureau.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal by the second defendant, the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) against the decision of Mr Justice Bell in the Queen's Bench Division at Bristol on February 10, 1998 that the MIB was liable for damages, to be assessed, for an accident in which the plaintiff, Lucy Maria Goretta O'Mahoney, was injured by the first defendant, Thomas Anthony Joliffe, who was uninsured.

Clause 6 of the 1972 agreement provides: "(1) MIB shall not incur *any liability under ... this* agreement in a case where ... (c) at the time of the accident the persons suffering ... bodily injury in respect of which the claim is made was allowing himself to be carried in a vehicle and ... (ii) ... being a person using the vehicle, he was using ... the vehicle ... without there being in force ... a contract of insurance."

Mr Dermod O'Brien and Mr Bradley Martin for the MIB; Mr Richard Methuen, QC and Mr Brian Gallagher for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the plaintiff was seriously injured in a road accident when she had been pillion on the first defendant's motorcyle when he lost control and crashed.

The judge held that as between the plaintiff and first defendant the latter was wholly to blame and ordered him to pay 100 per cent of the plaintiff's damages to be assessed.

The first defendant was, howev*er, uninsured and hence the in*volvement of the MIB. The MIB counterclaimed for a declaration that they were exempt from any liability to the plaintiff under clause 6(1)(c)(ii) of the 1972 agreement.

The judge found that the plaintiff knew there was no contract of insurance in force. He concluded, however, that at the time of the accident the plaintiff was not "a person using the vehicle" so that the MIB was not exempt from liability under clause 6. The correctness of that conclusion was the single issue raised on the appeal.

At the time of the accident, the plaintiff was 20 and the defendant 18. The defendant lived with his mother. The plaintiff came from Ireland and was travelling with the defendant's cousin. The two girls came to stay at the defendant's house.

The defendant was mostly unemployed and spent much of his time working on motorcyles. The one *which he crashed he had bought* a few months earlier for £10. By the time of the accident, work on the bike was virtually finished.

On a number of occasions the defendant's mother had told the defendant, his cousin and the plaintiff not to go out on the bike. She had specifically reminded them that there was no tax, no MoT, no insurance and no driving licence and also warned them of its condition.

The judge referred to *Stinton v Stinton* ([1995] RTR 167), *Hatton v Hall* ([1997] RTR 212), *Brown v Roberts* ([1965] 1 QB 1), *Leathley v Tatton* ([1980] RTR 21) and *B (a Minor) v Knight* ([1981] RTR 136).

The central principles which *could be derived from those cases* were as follows:

1 "Using" in clause 6 bore the same meaning as in the road traffic Acts, now the 1988 Act, so that a user was by definition someone required to provide third party cover and, *if he failed to do so*, was potentially liable both criminally and civilly. "User" therefore had a restricted meaning.

2 Not all passengers were users even when they knew that the vehicle was being driven without insurance.

3 There had to be present in the putative user some element of controlling, managing or operating the vehicle.

4 That element could exist as a result of a joint venture to use the vehicle for a particular purpose or where the passenger procured the making of the journey.

5 Not every such joint venture or procurement, however, would involve the element of control or man*agement necessary to constitute* the passenger as a user.

6 Whether in any given case there was a sufficient element of control or management to constitute the passenger a user was a question of fact and degree for the trial judge.

In his Lordship's judgment this was in the very fullest sense a joint entreprise. It was not merely an agreement to travel somewhere in the uninsured vehicle, as in *Hatton v Hall.*

This case was a fortiori to *Stinton v Stinton.* Here, unlike there, the actual *riding of the vehicle* was an integral part of the thrill of the venture. Here, unlike there, the judge felt able to make a positive finding that at one point during the outing the plaintiff herself actually *rode the bike.*

In his Lordship's judgment it was unreal and impermissible to hold, as effectively the judge did, that a party to such a venture could, so to speak, slip into and out of the status of vehicle user.

Given, as inevitably, he held, that the plaintiff was using the bike while herself riding it; given, as he could not but have held had he specifically addressed the question, that the plaintiff was using the bike *at the outset when she helped* bump start it; and given her equal participation throughout in the central purpose of the venture, his Lordship could not accept that a point ever arrived at which the judge could properly hold that her involvement was spent and the level of her control, management or operation of the bike fell short of that necessary to constitute her as a user.

While the mere fact of knowledge of the uninsured use of the vehicle was not of itself sufficient to constitute the passenger as a user, where the whole venture evolved as one of flagrant criminality, that consideration coloured its essential nature and enabled it more proper*ly to be characterised as one involv*ing "user" of the vehicle on the part of all those fully participating.

That view carried with it the following conclusion: that passengers who had no reason to suppose that a vehicle's use was uninsured or otherwise *unlawful* were less likely than those like the plaintiff to be found users of it with all the adverse criminal and civil consequences which such a finding entailed.

The present MIB agreement, which came into force on December 31, 1988 no longer required the MIB to establish user in addition to knowledge of no insurance as a condition of exemption from liability. Had, therefore, the plaintiff suffered her accident just five months later, her claim would have failed.

Nevertheless, ten years on there remained a number of cases like hers awaiting final determination. The present appeal was therefore clearly of importance not merely to *the plaintiff but to others too.*

Lord Justice Ward delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Palser Grossman, Southampton; Lamport Bassitt, *Southampton.*

Knowledge of sex offer required for conviction

Westminister City Council v Blenheim Leisure (Restaurants) Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Brooke, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment February 12]

In order to establish whether offers of sexual services for reward constituted a failure on behalf of a licensee to maintain good order in the premises, it was necessary for the licensee to have knowledge of the offers made.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal, by way of case stated, by Westminster City Council, against the dismissal by Geoffrey Brain Breen, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, on March 18, 1998 at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court on informations laid against Blenheim Leisure (Restaurants) Ltd, Simon Phillip Langer and Carlo Guiseppe Luigi Cura, that offers to provide sexual services for reward, made by various females to police officers, did not constitute a failure by the licensees to maintain good order in the premises under rule 9 of Westminster City Council's Rules of Management for Places of Public Entertainment, incorporated under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 12 to the London Government Act 1963, as amended by the Local Government Act 1985.

The magistrate had convicted the licensees of breaches of rule 4 of the council's rules.

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC and Mr Mark Bryant-Heron for Westmininster; Mr Ian Glen, QC and Miss Susanna Fitzgerald for the appellants.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that in deciding whether the behaviour of female dancers in the appellants' clubs was in breach of rule 9 it was necessary to consider whether their activities amounted to acts of prostitution. In their Lordships' opinion they did: see *R v McFarlane* ([1994] QB 419, 424).

In deciding whether the offers made by the females, having been made discreetly to an individual without being overheard or anyone else being aware of such offers, could properly be said to amount to a failure on the part of the licensees to maintain good order in the premises, what mattered was whether the licensees were aware of those activities.

It was in his Lordship's opinion immaterial whether anyone else overheard what was being offered, or was aware of it: see *R v Tan* ([1983] QB 1053, 1059).

Provided that it could be established in each case that the licensee in question was aware of those practices, so that it could be said that he permitted them to take place, his Lordship of the opinion that the offence would be made out.

To allow acts of prostitution to take place on the premises would amount to a failure to maintain good order in the premises. It was not necessary to show conduct which would amount to a public order breach of the peace, or to show that the conduct was rowdy.

The statutory provisions or the rules did not create offences of strict liability. It was necessary to establish mens rea and therefore knowledge on the part of the licensee.

Since the magistrate expressly found that no one else, including, it must be assumed, the licensees, was aware of what was being offered, his Lordship did not see how it could be said that any breach of the rule had occurred. Accordingly, the magistrate was right in law.

Mr Justice Forbes agreed

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, agreeimg, added that the council would do well to tighten up the language of *rule 9 if* it wished to be able to use it to prohibit such activities on licensed premises after the Human Rights Act 1998 comes into force, since the application of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953, Cmd 8969) would have the effect of prescribing that a criminal offence must be clearly defined.

Solicitors : Mr Colin Wilson, Westmininster; Jeffrey Green Russell.

Price not misleading when published

Thomson Tour Operations Ltd v Birch

Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment January 26]

Section 20(1) of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 created criminal liability for indications of price which were misleading at the time they were made, and not indications of price which subsequently became misleading.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by Thomson Tour Operators Ltd, by way of case stated, against their conviction by Redditch Justices on May 22, 1998, that they had given an indication to Alison Lee Baxter *that was misleading as an* indication as to price in November 1996, and was subsequently shown to be misleading when tested in February 1997 contrary to section 20(1) of the 1987 Act.

The information was preferred by Stephen William Birch on behalf of Hereford and Worcester County Council.

Thomson's Fair Trading Charter published in their holiday brochure (second edition, April-October 1997) stated: "...our early price promise means that if we reduce the total price of a holiday, after you have booked it, we will charge the new lower price".

Section 20 of the 1987 Act provides: "(1) ... a person shall be *guilty of an offence if, in the course* of any business of his, he gives (by any means whatever) to any consumers an indication which is misleading as to the price at which any goods, services, accommodation or facilities are available..."

Section 21 provides: "(1) *For the* purposes of section 20 above an indication given to any consumers is *misleading as to a price if what is* conveyed by the indication, or what those consumers might reasonably be expected to infer from the indication or any omission from it, includes any of the following ... (d) that a person who in fact has no such expectation (i) expects the price to be increased or reduced ... or (ii) expects the price, or the price as increased or reduced to be maintained..."

Mr Raymond Walker, QC, Mr Philip Galway Cooper and Mr Stephen Mason for Thomson; Mr Andrew Wallace for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that after booking her holiday Mrs Baxter found that her friend, Mrs Paula Anderton, had booked the same holiday from Thomson, having accepted an offer of a 10 per cent discount.

Mrs Baxter wrote to Thomson's sales manager in Birmingham, who refused to reduce the price of the holiday to match the discount offered to Mrs Anderton. She then wrote to Thomson's head office, and in the meantime paid the balance due.

The head office later refunded *Mrs Baxter an amount equivalent* to a 10 per cent discount.

His Lordship said that under section 21(1) of the 1987 Act, the person who was alleged in fact to have no such expectation was Thomson.

Under that section the prosecution was required, to prove conjunctively that, between November 1 and 30, 1996 Thomson had indicated to Mrs Baxter that they expected the price of the holiday to be reduced; and at the time that indication was given they did not expect the price of the holiday to be reduced.

The early price promise referred to the *possibility of a decrease in* the price of the holiday at some time after it had been booked.

Section 20(1) was expressed in the present tense not in the future tense and it created criminal liability for indications of price which were *misleading at the time made* and did not extend to the price later.

Parliament did have in mind the *possibility of an indication of price* which, after it was given, had become *misleading* since that was specifically provided for in section 20(2).

The words of the charter did not express an expectation on the part of Thomson that the price was to be increased or reduced. It could *not be said that Thomson anticipat*ed any decrease in the price of the holiday. The justices should have acquitted Thomson.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, agreeing, added that when the brochure was published Thomson in effect told customers that if the price went down they would charge a lower price. On the facts of this case they should have done, otherwise Mrs Baxter would be able claim damages for breach of warranty.

*But at the time they did not ex*pect the price to go down. That would depend on the markets and there was no evidence before the justices that they would expect it to go down.

Solicitors: Mason Bond; Mr Simon Mallinson, Worcester.

Court cannot release cash to fund case

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Harris (Stephen David)

Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment January 29]

Where cash had been seized under *section 42 of the Drug Trafficking* Act 1994, but forfeiture had not yet been ordered, a magistrates court did not have any jurisdiction to direct the release of cash for the purposes of funding legal proceedings under the Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise by way of case stated against the decision of Uxbridge Justices on July 21, 1998 to allow *Stephen David Harris legal* expenses from seized cash.

Mr Harris had been preparing to board a flight to Colombia from Heathrow airport when he was found to be carrying US$95,000. Mr Harris's account of the origin and purpose of the cash was considered unsatisfactory.

On April 21, 1998 the cash was seized. On April 23, an application for the continued detention of the seized cash was heard by Uxbridge Justices who granted a further detention of three months. On July 21, 1998, the court granted a further application for the detention of the seized cash for another three months. It also granted Mr Harris his legal expenses for defending the application and that was to be taxed from the detained cash held *by the commissioners.*

Mr Andrew Bird for the commissioners; Mr Joel Clompus for Mr Harris.

MR JUSTICE FORBES SAID that there was no ambiguity or uncertainty in the statutory provisions in question, and the court did not need to have regard to the European Convention on Human Rights (1953, Cmd 8969).

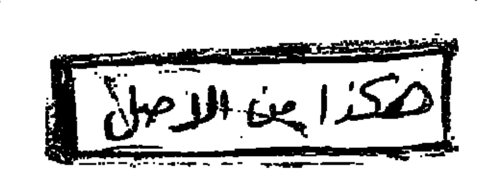
His Lordship was satisfied that there was no proper basis for extending to magistrates a power to make any order for the release of any cash in the absence of any specific power to make such an order.

Magistrates courts were the creatures of statute and their powers were defined and limited by statute. It was wrong to imply a power where none existed.

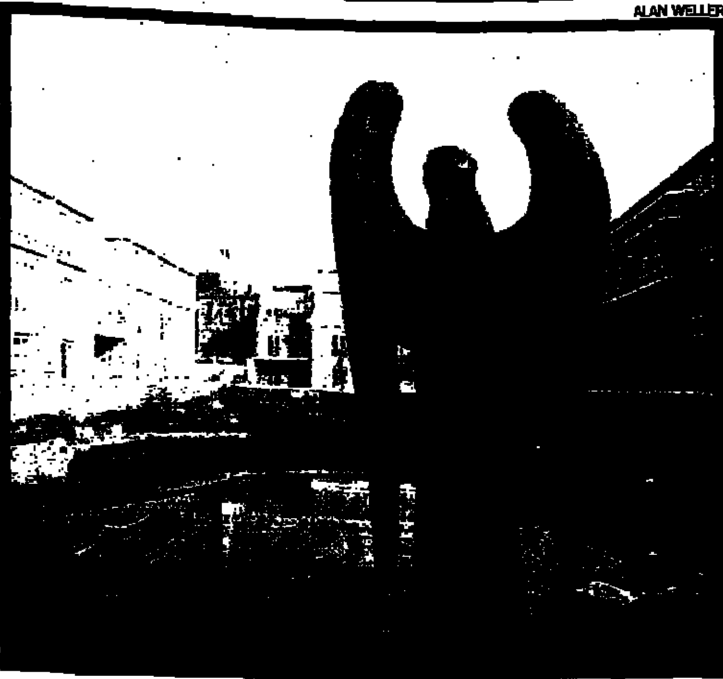
Lord Justice Brooke agreed

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Saunders & Co.

NEW HOMES



ALAN WELLER



The "lifesize" bronze angel at North London's Angel on the Green flats

Private art for the people

Sculpture long ago ceased being a feature of public buildings. Now the statue is making a comeback with developers. Mary Wilson reports



Later this year a striking abstract figure, *Travelling Step*, by the artist Tim Grimsey, can be seen in Pimlico

If you were ambling from St Mary's Church in Upper Street, Islington, through Collins Yard to Islington Green, you might be rather surprised to pass a "lifesize" bronze angel. The magnificent statue has just been installed in the centre of a landscaped courtyard at a new development of flats, Angel on the Green.

The idea was conceived in 1997 by the developer, Grove Manor Homes, and, because planning conditions stipulated that passers-by should be able to walk through the development in daylight hours, they can also appreciate the statue.

Jeff Duggan, the managing director of Grove Manor Homes, says: "We wanted to do something different for this development that would help our marketing and contribute something to the community." So the company chose three sculptors from a list provided by the Royal Sculpture Society and began a competition to see who came nearest to fulfilling the brief. It chose chose John Roberts, who has sculpted a stone angel for Lincoln Cathedral and last year had three statues at Westminster Abbey unveiled by the Queen.

"This was the first time that I had worked to a commission from a property developer," Mr Roberts says. "But I was delighted to be chosen."

About a year ago, Mr Roberts made a 2ft model so that the company could photograph it for marketing purposes and display it in the sales office. In December, the completed 6ft 6in angel was carefully lowered into place for all to see.

Being a philanthropic developer does not come cheap. The statue has cost Grove Manor Homes about £50,000, but Mr Duggan says that the publicity and kudos generated has made the money well spent. Two and three-bedroom flats in the development are priced from £290,000 (0171-359 5259).

Another sculpture is to be erected later this year in London behind a development of flats in St Vincent Square, Pimlico, Central London. This is a striking abstract figure created by the artist Tom Grimsey.

Angela South, the sales and marketing director of Nicholson Estates, says: "We worked with Art Contact, a London consultancy that places art in the public arena. We chose Mr Grimsey because much of his work is based on his interest in the shared language of sculpture and architecture."

This sculpture, a little over 8ft high, will also be visible to the public. Mr Grimsey has entitled it *Travelling Step* and designed it to rise from a water feature in the central courtyard garden, reflecting the glass-and-steel architecture of the building. Two-bedroom flats and three-bedroom penthouses in the development are available from £295,000 to £695,000 (0171-592 0203).

CALA Homes is also going down the artistic route. At its Britannic House Apartments development in Moseley, Birmingham, an enormous steel sculpture is being commissioned to go outside the entrance.

Sue Parry, the company's sales and marketing director, says: "This will form part of the structural canopy into the development. Because the building looks like a 1930s liner, the whole theme is nautical. The sculpture will represent a ship's mast and a sail and will form the awning over the entrance."

The Art Deco-style building is crescent-shaped and clad in cream marble. It will contain 113 one, two and three-bedroom flats and penthouses, priced from about £100,000 to £600,000 (Robert Powell & Company, 0121-454 6930).

Will ghosts spook buyers?

A judgment at Derby County Court last month went some way towards deciding the legal status of ghosts. Judge Peter Stretton found comprehensively against Andrew and Josephine Smith, who had sued the vendors of Lowes Cottage, in Upper Mayfield, Derbyshire, on the ground that the property was haunted.

In a five-minute ruling, Judge Stretton described the Smiths' stories of spectral molestation as "hysterical reactions", and found that invisible presences, foul smells and ghostly footsteps were "far more likely to have been created by a man than a ghost".

But the case may not have laid the issue entirely to rest. Judge Stretton said that "there is no acceptable evidence that this house . . . has ever been the subject of a supernatural visitation", but he came to no verdict on the reality of hauntings in general.

If you mention ghosts to estate agents, they often clam up. Haunted houses are a thorny issue for agents, who are understandably wary of becoming a laughing stock.

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, of the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "You're not going to mention anything detrimental to the seller's interests — but you can't tell untruths, either."

For agents, the problem is that haunting, unlike dry rot and structural damage, is a subjective phenomenon.

"I have come across enough cases to say that supernatural events sometimes really happen," says Tony Cornell of the Society for Psychical Research. "But ultimately I think that they depend on the mind of the percipient."

Even the most committed believers think that some people are more sensitive to phenomena than others. Similarly, the most hardened sceptics admit that stories of hauntings could put a buyer off a house.

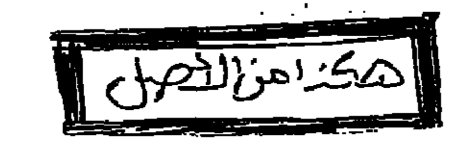
Mr Dunsmore-Hardy says: "If an owner has declared a ghost, the agents are not obliged to mention it. But they cannot suggest anything that would be contradicted by the presence of ghosts, such as that the property is a 'pleasant family home'."

With an old property, of course, a ghost could be a selling point. But there is no doubt that with a more modern house some vendors would be put off by spirits.

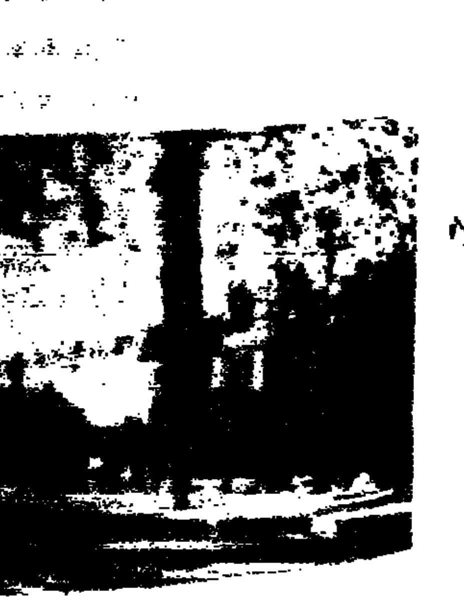
According to one report, the "haunted house" at Upper Mayfield rose above its pre-ghost value once the judge had ruled.

DAVID FICKLING

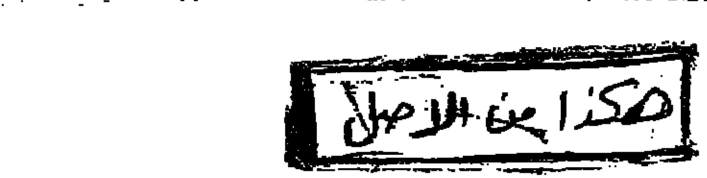




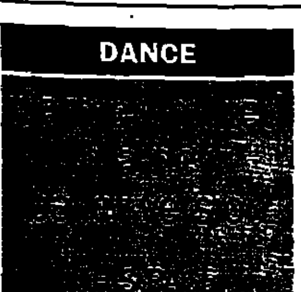
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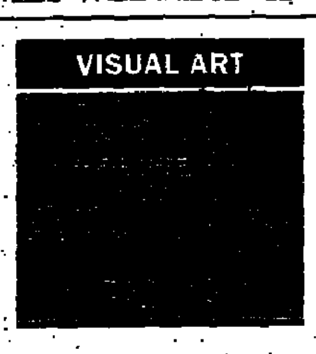
RETIREMENT HOMES







THE TIMES
ARTS





Into his leap of honour

DANCE: Will Irek Mukhamedov's Don Juan presage his withdrawal from the stage? Interview by **Allen Robertson**

Today we are all warned not to expect a job for life. But dancers have known this all along. They understand that the physical demands of their trade mean they will be quitting the limelight at the very point when other professionals hit their stride.

Irek Mukhamedov turns 39 next week. Yet, far from heading for the scrapheap, the Russian ballet star is about to be handed that most coveted of all dance trophies: a new full-length role created for him. Starting at Sadler's Wells on Monday, Mukhamedov will be playing the title character in *The Return of Don Juan* for Arc Dance Company. The gusto of his performance looks set to dispel the doomsday prophecies of a career in decline.

"I still dance 200 per cent every time," Mukhamedov insists. "Ballet is always young, but I have experience. I've been on stage for 20 years."

According to the choreographer Kim Brandstrup, the creative inspiration behind this new *Don Juan* is Mukhamedov's outsized talent. A comedy set in a modern film studio, it has a plot loosely based on a Danish radio play from the 1930s. That sparked off a similarly obscure Ingmar Bergman opus, *The Devil's Eye* (1960). Don Juan, briefly let out of Hell, sets his sights on a virginal ingénue, "the only girl of unassailable virtue left in the world". In trying to seduce her, the Don makes the calamitous mistake of falling in love for the first (and last) time.

It is a perfect role for Mukhamedov. Not only does he radiate masculine sexuality on stage, he also has an impish flair for comedy. "It is comic," he says, "but I hope the audience will cry a little bit too."

This is Mukhamedov's second created role for Arc: in 1994 he starred in Brandstrup's version of *Othello*. In the interim, Brandstrup has

> 'The Royal Ballet survived without Rudolf Nureyev. It will survive without me'

choreographed for several big classical ballet companies, including the Royal Danish. Mukhamedov feels that this has helped Brandstrup's style to grow. "I wish I could be a choreographer," the Russian dancer says, "but I know it is impossible. When I try to choreograph I get a headache. So when someone makes a ballet for me, I feel honoured."

A young superstar with the Bolshoi Ballet, lauded for his dynamism in blockbusters such as *Spartacus* and *Ivan the Terrible*, Mukhamedov and his second wife left Moscow for London nine years ago. He joined the Royal Ballet, where he has been ever since. The choreographer Kenneth MacMillan doted on his talents. No one so dramatically evoked the torment of Crown Prince Rudolf in *Mayerling*, the ballet Mukhamedov was dancing that night in 1992 when MacMillan died backstage. It was a blow for Mukhamedov. The dancer believes that he and the Royal's chief choreographer were forming a great partnership.

Today his future is in flux. From this season he is a guest with the Royal Ballet rather than a full-time member, and Mukhamedov feels that Covent Garden has cut him adrift. "I'm a dancer who needs to be a part of a company. To be a guest is to be on the outside. But the Royal Ballet will survive. It survived without Rudolf Nureyev. It will survive without Irek Mukhamedov."

His immediate future includes guest appearances in Japan, Russia and Germany. He and Anthony Dowell, the Royal Ballet's artistic director, have also worked out what he will be dancing (as a guest) once the company is back at Covent Garden next season. "I would like to dance as much as I can, as long as possible."

Away from the dance world he has the bedrock of his wife and two children, now eight and three. "When we finish talking now I will fly back to them in Bedfordshire. They will still be there when it is time to give up dancing, maybe sooner than I think. Who knows? I love driving. Maybe I could be a cabbie."

● The Return of Don Juan *is at Sadler's Wells (0171-863 8000) from Monday to Wednesday, then tours nationally until April 16*

SUZANNE HUBBARD



Super trouper: at 39, Irek Mukhamedov still gives all his dancing "200 per cent"

No sex means no cigar



One way or another, it all comes down to sex. Without it, Carmen would be nothing but a common factory worker; without it, José would still be on the right side of the law and Micaela would be a happily married woman. And without it, we would not have our story. Didy Veldman's new ballet for Northern Ballet Theatre, unveiled at the Grand Theatre in Leeds on Monday, knows this. But somehow her *Carmen* cannot quite bring itself to express this fundamental truth.

And yet virtually everything else about Veldman's production (sponsored by Halifax plc) is in place. The staging is excellent — the story is told lucidly and quickly with a strong sense of purpose. The scenario, devised by the late Christopher Gable, reimagines the tale, setting it in contemporary Rio de Janeiro, and that works just fine. The designs, by the inestimable Lez Brotherston, capture the inner-city malaise of an industrial wasteland blighted by poverty and despair. The Bizet score, arranged by John Longstaff, is enthusiastically played by John Pryce-Jones and the Northern Ballet Theatre Orchestra. And Patricia Doyle's direction ensures excellent performances from a uniformly accomplished cast.

No, the problem is the choreography which, despite its plain-spoken energy, does not show us a full-blooded tale of fatal attraction. Veldman's strength is in her writing for the ensemble. She animates the stage in well-defined social observation: the gangsters and crooks have a restless bravado; the factory girls are trapped by boredom and futility; the police officers evince a wooden devotion to duty.

When the opportunity arises to have some fun, Veldman takes it. She enjoys reinventing Escamillo as a rock star, and getting raunchy as the toreador song is subjected to the full synthesized rock treatment. Some of her vignettes are juicy, such as the robbery of two tourists by Carmen's gang, and Veldman responds well to the coarseness of Carmen's society, making clear that almost everything in it has its price. But the unisex democracy of the choreography works against Veldman when it comes to focusing on soloists. She doesn't have the language to make them special.

She never fully establishes

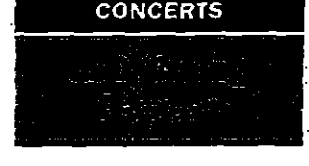


Daniel de Andrade (José), Charlotte Broom (Carmen)

the overpowering physical connection between Charlotte Broom's Carmen and Daniel de Andrade's José, so that when their final confrontation arrives, it comes almost as a dramatic non sequitur. The awkward and evasive consummation scene in Carmen's bedroom is far from sizzling and Veldman seems so intent on portraying Carmen as a tomboy that poor Broom seems stuck in a perpetual adolescence. Broom is an impressive dance-actress, but if the body language of the ballet is not screaming adult sexual allure, what is her Carmen to do?

DEBRA CRAINE

Bombast without bite



London has heard some fine performances of Mahler's mighty *Resurrection Symphony* recently, but none perhaps as overtly impressive as this account by Myung-Whun Chung with the London Symphony Orchestra. A packed Barbican Hall added to the sense of occasion, and with its concentration, vividness of orchestral playing and remarkably controlled singing it added up to something quite special. But ultimately this huge impression was not enough, and the performance's failure to be truly stirring pointed up the pitfalls of playing Mahler.

Masterpieces of this size are open to many different interpretations, but this one, coming at the end of the LSO education programme's enterprising Discovery Day, was a little too indulgent. Mahler is at least partly about luxuriant sound, intricate detail and vulgar bombast, and Chung, conducting from memory, conjured up all these with a sure hand. Yet he missed the work's more severe and unsettling side.

Even at the slow tempos he adopted, Chung's pacing was secure. He shaped the work's biggest span, the death-into-life idea that arches over the entire work, with a certainty that disguised the symphony's fragmented gestation.

With its bristling tension, the opening promised much: as the movement developed a sense of both serenity and epic grandeur, all seemed to be in place for a compelling interpretation. But then Chung's relaxed speeds began to take their toll, and this funeral march became more funereal than march-like, hardly the *Allegro maestoso* that Mahler called for.

The dreamily escapist second movement, evoking the memory of a distant dance, turned out to be a slow-motion tour of a peasant hop with all the lilt of the *Ländler* rhythms filtered out. The grim reality of the third movement was not really frightful enough, as the music's sardonic edge was softened by all too moderate tempos.

Strong vocal contributions put the performance back on course, especially the unearthly, disembodied entry of the Venetian Sara Mingardo in *Urlicht*. A true contralto, not a moonlighting mezzo, she sang with the glow of molten metal, and phrased seamlessly.

After an unsettled start, the Slovakian soprano Andrea Dankova also sang radiantly, showing off a small but glamorous voice. And the London Symphony Chorus, hushed at first and later full-throated, was on splendid form in the finale, which Chung controlled masterfully. The conductor's theatrical instinct showed in the way he steered it from the explosion of sound at the bursting of the graves towards an overwhelming climax.

JOHN ALLISON

Youthful fling on the wild side



A TIME there was when Thomas Adès was only a pianist: a BBC Young Musician finalist, a career as a soloist certainly beckoned. But that would have limited him, so he became a composer, and developed, in rapid succession, parallel careers as a conductor and artistic director. Still in his twenties, he has been appointed artistic advisor to the Aldeburgh Festival. And as if to underscore his credentials as heir to the Britten legacy came this Wigmore concert of classical chamber music.

The comparison may be pertinent. Britten was an exceptional pianist, but especially an exceptional accompanist. Beethoven's vast, soul-searching *Ghost Trio* requires something more than musicianly genius. Of course, Adès has this in spades: he cannot fail to be interesting, and his piano playing has the inner conviction and understanding of the composer-pianist. He is so interesting, in fact, that Mitsuko Uchida herself came to hear him. But what must she, a pianist with a capital P, have made of it? From the blizzard of notes in the rushed opening Adès led an exciting but harebrained performance.

Admittedly, the excellent violinist Anthony Marwood — who would have given that vital shape to the ensemble — had flu, and was replaced by the fluent but often superficial Alexander Janacek. As Adès blazed forward, only cellist Louise Hopkins appeared to be trying to salvage an interpretation dragging them back in the Largo to make space for what should be hard-won crescendos. Under Adès's hands the great descending scales disappeared in a wash of pedal, only to rear up suddenly accented at the finish.

More successful was the arresting Haydn E major Trio, HXV28. Here Adès could lead, and the ensemble cohered. The intriguing opening in which pizzicato notes pin down the wings of spread piano chords had hints of transparency, though Adès lent high camp to the mock-Baroque Allegretto.

Marwood was too ill to play Bartók's *Contrasts* but rose heroically to a witty piece of Adès juvenilia, *Catch* (1991). This charming musical conceit casts the clarinettist (the fine Lynsey Marsh) as outsider, who must wander in and out looking for a way into a composition that fizzes like the unwinding of clockwork toys. She is finally forgiven with an alluring lyric finale.

Another piece of theatre, Adès's *Life Story* (1994), on a droll tract of Tennessee Williams about one-night stands, strains to be a louche cabaret number (the ghost of Britten again) but really needs an untrained voice. Although Mary Carewe injected a degree of intimacy, this is a laboured setting over its asymmetric bass rumblings. Adès has moved on since, but a packed house lapped it up.

HELEN WALLACE

Riding on the rhythm

DAVID MURRAY'S recent projects have included everything from a collaboration with Senegalese musicians to an album celebrating his predilection for jamming with the Grateful Dead, so his Creole band, embracing the music of Guadeloupe, barely raises an eyebrow. Just two of the islands' percussionists, *ka* drummer François Landreseau and Klod Kiavue on *ka* drum and congas, were actually present for this one-off appearance, but the American saxophonist let their playing form the basis of what he and his jazz-orientated colleagues played, rather than using it for a splash of rhythmic embellishment.

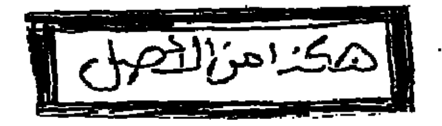
Kiavue, indeed, provided *Gété*, a rousingly percussive



opener with a rolling rhythm over which Murray, on tenor, and flautist James Newton played an infectious theme. Pheeroan akLaff kept asserting the springy Caribbean rhythm while maintaining the supple looseness conducive to jazz improvisation. Throughout, both he and bassist Santi Debriano fulfilled this role with great aplomb, pounding out lively, dancing rhythms that could be embroidered by the two hand-drummers and, simultaneously, provide a platform for Murray's multi-textured saxophone and Newton's neat yet intense flute.

Even the introduction of Guy Konket did not faze the rhythm section. Konket used his forceful baritone to great effect, chanting and declaiming over the chattering percussion and blending his voice, call-and-response style, with both Murray and Newton. Whether he or Landreseau was singing, Murray's musical instincts ensured that the free adventurousness of the jazz element was allowed to flourish in this unusual setting.

CHRIS PARKER



In the namesake of comedy

THEATRE

The Nualas
Drill Hall, W1

Having never knowingly been in the company of anybody called Nuala, I found that this show allowed me to encounter three at the same time: two blonde and one brunette. It is the same distribution of hair tints that occurs in *Fascinating Aida*, so perhaps a showbiz rule requires all song'n'comedy girl threesomes to be coloured thus. Nuala (rhymes with hula) may or may not be their real names, but it is what they call one another. Not even Tall Blonde Nuala or Shorter Blonde Nuala: just Nuala. "Nuala," says another Nuala, "will now sing *Bridget the Nun*, or *Curly Kale, the Girl with the Cabbage Head*." And Nuala begins, with Nuala and Nuala sharing the vocal backing or taking over from Nuala for verses two and three.

Becomingly togged out in mid-thigh frocks of pink plush, these Irish twentysomethings sweetly sing of grotesque misfortunes, set to a lilting tune of the sort more usually found associated with the scenic beauties of Tralee. There is Curly, for example, whose green head made her feel so unwanted at school, until the day came when teacher fell down dead on an excursion to the Burren and Curly saved her classmates from starvation by letting them chew her from the neck up. This self-sacrifice was duly recognised by Rome and now she is the patron saint of vegetable plots.

The Nualas have mastered the deadpan delivery, the devilish irony that soon entices an audience into their world where men are bastards — of course, that comes with the territory — but where their bastardly antics are unusual, even for men. The songs must be composed by the methods of free association: start with a cycling nun, exhaust her, send her to Lourdes to be healed, slip her into the Tour de France — "Go, Bridget, go!" — and so on to glory.

Likewise the astonishing riff by brunette Nuala, the one I first fixed in my mind as Scholarly Nuala, comparing a woman looking for a man to a jug of milk waiting on the kitchen table. Various cups of tea arrive, keen to mix, but they're all bastards, and as time passes the description of her souring contents becomes ever more graphic. To counter this comical attack on men, there is the equally remarkable hymn in honour of the actor Donald Sutherland, not the most obvious love-object for three girls in plush — "You're Canadian but we don't find you boring at all!"

At one time the threesome looked as though each might stay within a consistent character role, the other two being Severe and Scatty. But though Severe Nuala continued to look sternly at us and mutter complaints into her mike about the lighting, and though Scatty Nuala's hair became more tousled, any naive distinction between them would soon crumble. They share the narrative bits and the frank put-downs of showbiz celebs and each has a turn at introducing the songs with remarks sometimes as comic as what follows.

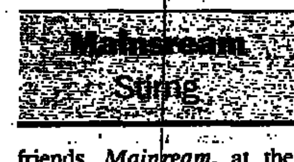
Anyone in the front rows dressed curiously will have these features courteously pointed out. Identities may be foisted upon us, such as the fellow named as that great Irish jazz musician Thelonious Mahoney from Co Meath. I laughed a lot, and when they skipped off behind the glittering backdrop for the last time, I was truly sorry to see them go.

JEREMY KINGSTON



The Nualas: consummate exponents of the deadpan delivery and the devilish irony, delivered in triplicate

Two double beddings



Mainstream
Stirling

Two people, a record company A&R man and a personnel manager, meet in a shabby hotel miles from nowhere. After initial hostilities and fuelled by drink, they spend the night together, parting as strangers. In a parallel universe the same thing happens. Exactly the same circumstances, exactly the same result. But these two people react both to circumstances and each other differently, and what happens in between the beginning and the end of their almost identical encounters takes a different turn. Meanwhile, in another parallel universe . . .

And so the merry-go-round goes on in Suspect Culture's latest dissection of relationships among what used to be called Generation X, the late-twenty and thirtysomethings for whom nothing is ever easy. Taking its cue from their last major work, the brilliant *Timeless*, which looked at the secrets and lies between four friends, *Mainstream*, at the MacRobert Arts Centre, peels back the layers of personal artifice even more to eavesdrop on late-night secrets and morning-after awkwardness we can all recognise. A simple enough exercise, but Suspect Culture like to make life difficult for themselves, and the dizzying permutations that result from having four actors play two characters leaves no avenue of intimacy unexplored.

Developed over a lengthy devising process, this is a typically immaculate piece of work from the most adventurous, most in-tune-with-the-times theatre company in Britain. As David Greig's crisp script jump-cuts between first meeting to final parting, the effect is akin to *Sliding Doors* as penned by Harold Pinter. The four-strong acting ensemble of Callum Cuthbertson, Kate Dickie, Paul Thomas Hickey and Louise Ludgate are kept on their toes as they switch between time zones as well as characters, while other liaisons are glimpsed in a second playing area.

But it is the director Graham Eatough who appears to have left his signature all over *Mainstream*. All the stylistic tics from *Timeless* are here, including the heightened use of gesture and Nick Powell's gorgeously evocative soundscape, but they are used to even more personal effect as *Mainstream* explores the secret lives that go on behind the mask of a profession. Where the repetition of the piece could grate, it hypnotises and seduces you deep into the heart of this *Brief Encounter* for the end of the century. Something very similar is probably going on in a hotel room near you right now.

NEIL COOPER

Linking and thinking

Play-Boy
Dublin

I made that bit up, admits Christine Molloy, one half of the performance duo Desperate Optimists, about her assertion that, just before he met that fatal ice-pick, Leon Trotsky had written the words "there must be another way".

It is a clear warning for the audience at *Play-Boy*, the company's tendentious evening of theatrical *bricolage* at the Project at the Mint, not to be too credulous. When it comes to history, you have to suspect your sources. But although Molloy and her partner, Joe Lawlor, are keen to offer such warnings, the pair still retain high expectations of their audience.

Play-Boy brings together chunks of other people's texts, videotaped interviews, a little *mariachi song and dance*, some gunfire and a whole lot of fake blood in an effort to connect some ostensibly disparate facts and events of 20th-century history.

But if the show involves outlining intriguing and perplexing coincidences, Desperate Optimists are not joining up the dots for anyone. There may be a few hints about the links between the testimony of the film director Elia Kazan at the McCarthy hearings and the riots that accompanied the original Abbey production of John Millington Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World*, but the show still leaves plenty of room for an audience's mental participation.

Some things do become clear as the music plays and gunshots ring out. Violence is one of the key elements that unite the company's chosen texts, whether it be in Molloy's account of the murder of Trotsky, the video witnesses' discussions or the frequent ear-rattling reports of blanks fired on stage. A link also appears to be made between violence, colonialism and isolation. But somehow it is only when the urge to join all the dots begins to wane that the facts seem to speak freely. This is not an approach that a company can take on lightly, all the less so if the intention is to create something more than a multimedia seminar in cultural studies.

But the company's challenge is to make their discussions hold up in front of an audience with relatively straightforward expectations; that is to say, they have to make an evening of talking about theatre into an evening of theatre.

In *Play-Boy* the company succeed in creating a bristlingly engaging evening of performance. The show does not ignore the straightforward pleasures of storytelling and pretending, but neither does it allow for any lapses of concentration, nor promise easy rewards. A better definition of vital theatre would be hard to find.

LUKE CLANCY

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hergie

LONDON

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR: Laurence Boswell's jolly production of Ben Jonson's rumbustious comedy transfers from Stratford.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire.

ORFEO AND EURYDICE. Choreographer Martha Clarke returns to ENO to direct her 1997 production of Gluck's sublime retelling of the Greek myth. Counter-tenor Artur Stefanowicz sings Orpheus, with Margaret Richardson as Eurydice. Roy Goodman conducts.
Coliseum (0171-632 8300). Opens tonight, 8pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The eminent Lorin Maazel performs a treble act in two concerts where he is conductor, composer and soloist. On offer are the UK premiere of his Music for Violin and Orchestra, with Maazel as violin soloist, framed by pieces by Bartók, Kreisler and Tchaikovsky.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm

VIA DOLOROSA. Five performances only of David Hare's thoughtful and poignant account of a searching visit to Israel and Palestine.
Almeida (0171-359 4404). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The versatile American soprano Cheryl Studer turns her attention to Richard Strauss as she joins the orchestra in a performance of the Sextet, Interlude and Finale from Capriccio. Also on the programme is Beethoven's Eroica Symphony. Jukka-Pekka Saraste conducts.
Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.



Orpheus and Eurydice returns to the Coliseum

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM. Birmingham Royal Ballet opens the Hippodrome's new season with the jaunty, foot-tapping Hobson's Choice. David Bintley's family favourite is danced to the memorable melodies of Paul Reade.
Hippodrome (0121-622 7486). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: The Tallis Scholars under their founder and conductor Peter Phillips celebrate 25 years of distinguished vocal endeavour with an evening of choral music by the 16th-century composer Taverner.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL. The joint 50th anniversary of the death of Richard Strauss and Vitezslav Novak is marked with a concert by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under Libor Pesek. Works by both composers feature, including Strauss's rarely performed Duet — concertino.
Philharmonic Hall (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **GOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE:** Richard Nelson's fascinating study of a family's expectations after separation in the Second World War.
Pit (0171-638 8891).

□ **THE NUALAS.** Irish all-girl satirical singing trio bring harmony, hilarity and a sharp look at humanity. See review, right
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

□ **SHOCKHEADED PETER:** The Scissorman is back: wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lillies and Martyn Jacques's falsetto screech.
Lyric, W6 (0181-741 8701).

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs.
Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

□ **AND THE BROTHER TOO:** Eamon Morrissey returns to the inimitable comic writings of Flann O'Brien, revealing more about "Yer Man" and his curious view of the world.
Tricycle (0171-328 1000).

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.
Apollo (0171-494 5070)

□ **HOWARD CRABTREE'S WHEN PIGS FLY:** Off-Broadway hit comedy about putting on a musical revue emphasis on lavish costumes and difficult performers.
Arts Theatre (0171-836 3334).

□ **HOWIE THE ROOKIE.** Mark O'Rowe's nightmare account of Dublin's vicious underworld feuds. Mike Bradwell directs Aidan Kelly and Karl Shields
Bush (0181-743 3388).

□ **LE CID:** After ten years Declan Donnellan directs Corneille's 1637 classic again, this time performed in French (English surtitles). Received an ovation at the Avignon Festival.
Riverside (0181-237 1111).

◪ **COPENHAGEN.** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's enjoyably intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs.
Duchess (0171-494 5075)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated cop in a small town. Nick Nolte and James Coburn put in powerful performances as father and son, caught in a cycle of male violence.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18): David Kane's buzzy comedy charts the mess six Camden Town misfits make of their love lives. With Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Douglas Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart.

HOLY MAN (PG): Eddie Murphy's naive guru and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to sell inferior products on a shopping channel. Ghastly stuff.

FOREIGN LAND (ICA): Strangely gripping underclass thriller about two young exiles set in Brazil and Lisbon. A triumph of quality over quantity. Directed by Walter Salles.

NEWS FROM THE GOOD LORD (ICA): Over-the-top French comedy from Didier Le Pêcheur. Six weirdos go looking for an Author. Some surreal patches of lunacy.

CURRENT

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable stitches a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. It's supremely well acted, but the comic treatment of survival in a death camp is at best nauseous.

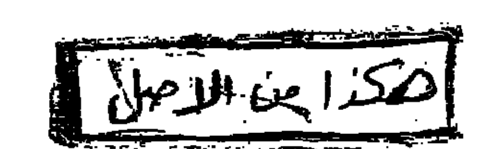
YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS (18) Neil LaBute's sex-obsessed comedy of manners tracks the amnesties of six yuppie thirtysomethings. With Nastassja Kinski, Aaron Eckhart

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG) Jenny Seagrove and Anthony Edwards star in a quirky Valentine comedy where they outwit the dastardly dentist, Charles Dance

HIDEOUS KINKY (15) Kate Winslet plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the hippie trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beautifully shot film by Gillies MacKinnon with Said Taghmaoui, Bella Riza and Carrie Mullan

A BUGS LIFE (U): A colony of cute, hard-working ants are terrorised by a delinquent gang of grasshoppers. Dazzling, bug-eyed perspectives from Disney and Pixar make this a comic feast for kids. John (Toy Story) Lasseter directs

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15) Ripping yarn about the struggling, upstart William Shakespeare, with serious quill problems: sexual as well as inky. A cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.



■ **PARIS GALLERIES**
The genius of Rothko

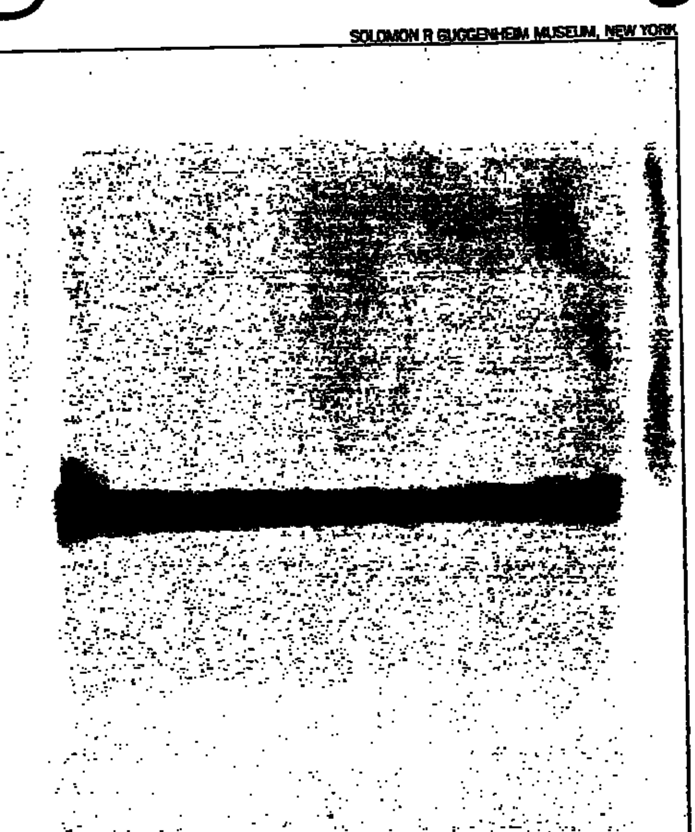
ARTS

■ **LONDON GALLERIES**
Russian curiosities

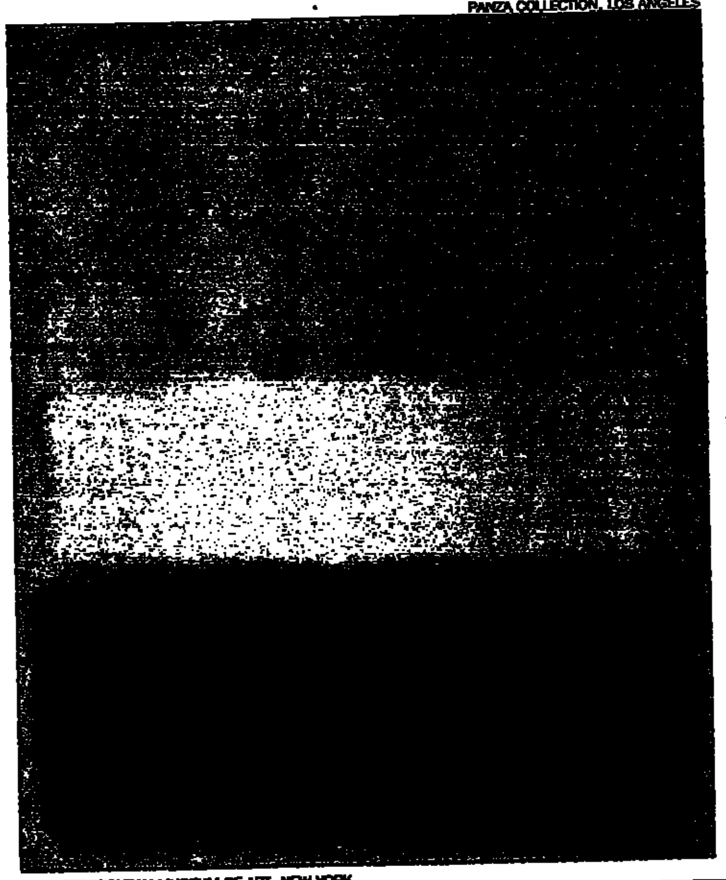
Long, dazed journey into night

VISUAL ART:
Richard Cork
on important Paris shows devoted to the genius of Rothko and Hockney

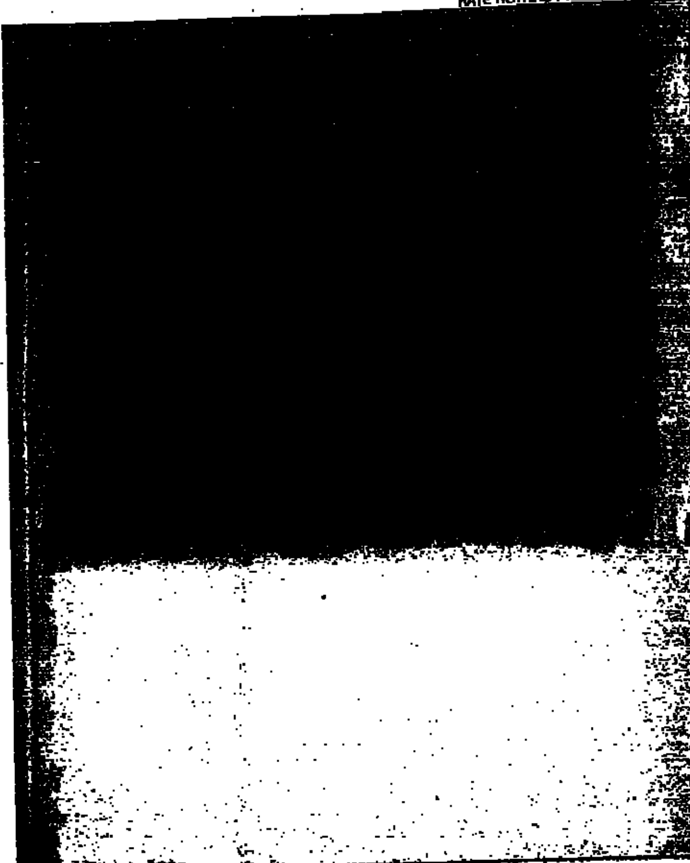
SOLOMON R GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, NEW YORK



PANZA COLLECTION, LOS ANGELES



KATE ROTHKO PRIZEL COLLECTION



Only a year before he committed suicide in 1970, Mark Rothko made the Tate Gallery an exceptionally handsome gift of nine major paintings. Apart from reflecting his love of Turner's most sublime work, the donation conveyed Rothko's gratitude to a country where his art had already enjoyed warm admiration. Now, however, the great Rothko retrospective already shown in Washington and New York has bypassed London and ends its tour in Paris. So British devotees of Rothko's luminous, transcendent vision must make a pilgrimage to the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, where long queues brave the winter winds to pay homage to a master of Modernism.

To judge by the awed faces at the exhibition, visitors find Rothko well worth the wait. I would go further. This is an exceptionally moving show, installed with lucid simplicity and select enough to avoid the risk of lapsing into monotony. Rothko's output was immense, and a large survey might easily make him look repetitive. Here, however, the organisers stop well short of overkill. And they are not afraid of revealing how long he took to discover his identity as an artist.

Emigrating from his native Russia at the age of nine, the young Marcus Rothkowitz had good reason to feel insecure. His father died in 1914, only two years after the family settled in Portland, Oregon. To help to overcome the ensuing hardship, Rothko was obliged to sell newspapers in the street. It was a miracle that he did well enough at school to win a bursary to Yale University, but no surprise that he left before obtaining a degree. Already prey to the highly strung temperament that plagued him throughout life, he studied painting in New York instead.

> ‘Rothko struggled for two decades to find his own voice’

Rothko struggled for the next two decades to find his voice. A forlorn series of Manhattan subway paintings, each stressing urban alienation, indicate just how isolated he must have felt. Only with hindsight can we see how the stark, planar organisation of these subterranean images prophesies the structure he would favour in his mature work.

After 1940, when he began to exhibit under the name of Rothko, a new feeling of solidarity emerged in the New York avant-garde. He met Clyfford Still and Jackson Pollock, who shared his desire for extreme renewal. But the paintings he produced in the war years, riddled with mythological references and titles as mysterious as *The Omen of the Eagle*, seem fussy and starved of the epic, sensuous vision he would discover later.

The true breakthrough occurred only around 1948, when Rothko realised that he should discard all his unwieldy and obscure references to the past. Concentrating now on a few elements only, and unafraid to purge his canvases of all irrelevant details, he gradually discovered how to let bands, lozenges and strips of smouldering colour float on the picture surface. His brushwork became blurred, allowing his pigment to grow as vaporous as a cloud. And each component, whether as thin as a line or as looming as a land-mass, is allowed space to assert its own character.

From 1950 until his tragic death, Rothko's art is essentially abstract. But we cannot help seeing in these great veils of orange, red, black, yellow or maroon a host of possible references to the visible world. The division between one element and its neighbour often resembles a horizon. We feel alone in the immensity of a bare landscape, gazing towards a sky suffused with the last, brilliant flare of waning light. Windows are evoked as well, capacious enough to encompass the vastness of an elemental view beyond.

No figures can be detected in Rothko's mature work, but it never feels impersonal. Even at their largest and most enveloping, his paintings seem surprisingly intimate. They relate very directly to our own experience of the world, although Rothko constantly succeeds in conveying a sense of cosmic, unfathomable strangeness.

The depression that finally overwhelmed him is disclosed with terrifying candour in the last room. Restricted now to a dour combination of black and muddy grey or brown, Rothko confronts utter negation. Darkness has descended, seemingly for ever. He could find no pathway out of the gloom, and the final paintings are pitifully demoralised. Their pessimism is all the more shocking when compared with the boundless aspiration of the paintings he produced at his zenith.

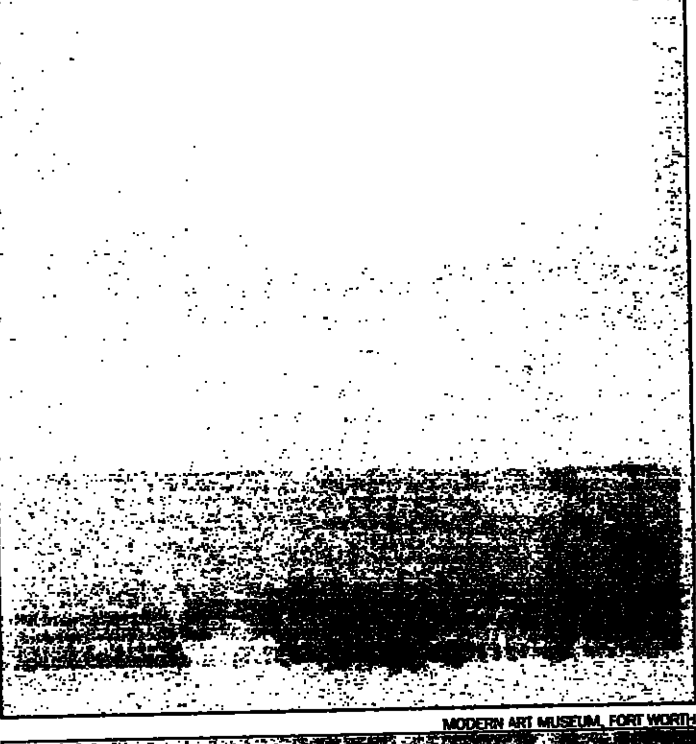
After this, it is a relief to find **David Hockney: Space/Landscape** at the Pompidou Centre. Displayed in temporary rooms, while most of the building is closed for extensive renovation, the survey commences with a witty 1962 painting. Here a demonic young Hockney and his friends refuse to look out of the car window as they race crazily through Switzerland en route to Florence. Since then, though, he has stared at his surroundings more and more intently.

Some of his finest 1967 Californian poolscapes are here, including *A Bigger Splash*, and by 1970 he depicts two friends gazing as if spellbound towards converging avenues of trees in a Vichy park. Two years later, Hockney painted the most seductive canvas on show here: a luminous, melting view of Mount Fuji, its liquid forms contrasted with the precision of a single flower isolated in a foreground vase. His subsequent fascination with fractured, distorting perspectives inspired by Cubism has led him to far more restless images. *Pearblossom Highway*, shimmering in the Californian desert, is made from hundreds of colour photographs painstakingly assembled into a coherent view. The result is like a shattered mosaic, reconstructed piece by piece.

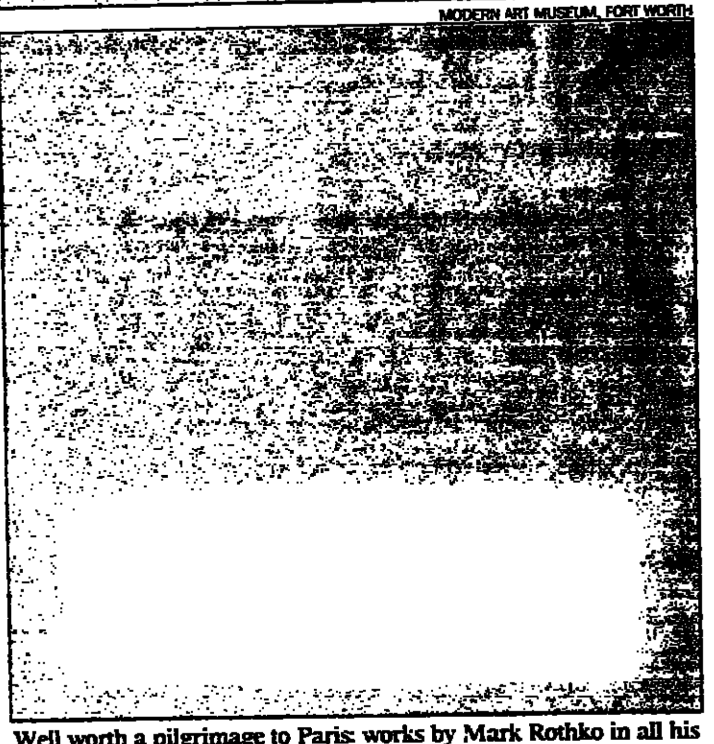
And it paves the way for an even more epic, multipart photographic collage of the Grand Canyon. Originally taken in 1982, these images now form the basis of two colossal canyon paintings executed last year. Displayed here at either end of the long final room, they are a tour de force of sustained, eye-bending observation.

● Mark Rothko *at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (00331 53674000) until April 18*; David Hockney: Space/Landscape *at Centre Pompidou (00331 44781233) until April 26*

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK



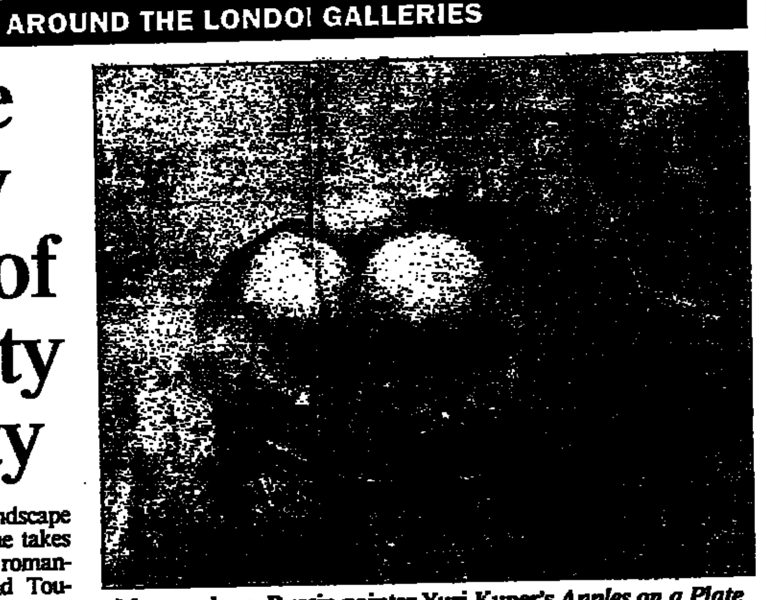
MODERN ART MUSEUM, FORT WORTH



Well worth a pilgrimage to Paris: works by Mark Rothko in all his moods, both vibrant and gloomy, dating from 1949 to 1958

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

In the dingy deeps of the dirty old city



Memory lane: Russin painter Yuri Kuper's *Apples on a Plate*



David Hepher's *Sidy for Brandon Flats with Blue Stripe*

David Hepher is a landscape painter. Every summer he takes off to southern France, to romantic sunlit regions around Toulouse. For the rest of the year, as head of painting at the Slade School of Art, he works in London. The cityscape becomes his subject — but not the pomp or splendour of the tourist brochure. Hepher captures the type of urban landscape you might glimpse as you crawl through the bowels of the capital on a train. His subject is the bland reality of the high-rise housing estate, the 1960s dream gone wrong.

Against layered concrete and timber shuttering, tall rectangles cut stark geometries intended to echo the abstractions of Mondrian and De Stijl. As a teacher, Hepher flashes his art-historical credentials. Between a tower and a graffiti-scrawled fence, Piero della Francesca's view of Arezzo is quoted. A glimpse of El Greco's moonlit Toledo crouches in a corner. But the soulless atmosphere of these works belongs to an altogether more contemporary age. Stains seep, graffiti sprawls, paint overflows like a blocked drain.

Flowers East 199-205 Richmond Road, E8 (0181-985 3333) until Monday

☐ AFTER a suicidal period of depression and a long, slow haul to stability, is Cork Street back afloat at last, bobbing on the currents of contemporary art? The Helly Nahmad Gallery, which opened last year, is shortly to display the work of some of the most established names on the scene. And last week Robert Sandelson opened its doors onto a stylish new space at Number Five.

The art of the Russian painter and theatre designer **Yuri Kuper** forms the mainstay of Sandelson's first show. The viewer steps into a *cabinet de curiosités*, into a poetic realm collage from scrounged bric-a-brac. Antique copperplate writing, yellowing newsprint, old tins and postcards and daguerreotype plate become part of the surfaces on wich muted, textured tones of pait are layered and left to settle, likthe dust of old memories. There a sense that nothing has been disturbed for years, that flowers might have been found pressed beteen the leaves of a Victorian Bble, that the scene of the stage sc has not been trodden for some 0 years. Kuper recreates the stilltimelessness of some Miss Hrisham's world.

This clashes stronglywith the show in a downstairs gallry dedicated to up-to-the-miute art. Here **Micha Klein's** gissy tableau of camp fairies joses for attention with a typicallypainterly **Jack Yeats**, or the squiff squares of a **Bridget Riley**. Anif mazelike lithographs by **Loue Bourgeois** appear to have bei chosen more for the name of he artist than the merit of the work, this does little to detract from an otherwise fresh, heterogeneous show.

Robert Sandelson, 5 Cork Street, W1 (0171-439 1001) until April 9

☐ **Arabella Caccia** is vivacious and expressive. She managed to spill a cup of coffee over **Nicola Rae** on the day that they first met. Nicola maintained a characteristic serenity. But if the personalities of these two artists are different, their works are both rooted in the earth. Sifting and funnelling ground-down soil into Perspex boxes, Rae creates wonderfully tranquil pieces which surprise and soothe. Caccia is more dramatic. The hot landscapes of South Africa are the starting point for swirling meditations on spirituality and myth.

New Burlington Street Gallery, W1 (0171-287 2466) until Saturday

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

MARK ROSENBLATT

Age: 21

Profession: Director

Education: St Paul's and Oxford. "So predictable."

Beginnings: Directing *Dr Faustus* at school at 16 with a £600 budget. "That's the joy of going to a rich institution."

Oxford eclecticism: He mounted productions of *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, *Ghetto*, *Peer Gynt*, *Someone to Watch over Me*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Saved*.

Useful experience: "I acted at school and university, which was good grounding for a director."

Big break: He is assisting John Crowley, the director of *Macbeth*, starring Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter, arriving at the Queen's Theatre tonight.

Straight to the top, then? He was spotted by Thelma Holt, producer of *Macbeth*, while at Oxford. Holt was Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre there in his final year. She also saw his touring production of *The Taming of the Shrew* in Japan.

Eastern promise: "We went to Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo, where we performed at the Globe — it's carpeted, a combination of authenticity and middle-class comfort. All the venues were very different, and I had to redirect and let the actors grow into it. I learnt to be philosophical — I didn't much like the show myself."

Royal command: "The Crown Prince and Princess came to the Tokyo Globe and I sat in a box with them."

Any mentors besides Thelma Holt? Richard Eyre was her predecessor at Oxford. "I went to the National Theatre's studio with my *Peer Gynt* company. We did an acting workshop with Fiona Shaw, voice sessions and singing."

What does "assisting" on *Macbeth* entail? "I rehearse the understudies and do little bits when the director asks me. It's a brilliant learning experience."

Training? "There's a shameful lack of formal training for directors in this country. The best way to learn is through practical experience and I've been lucky."

Future plans: "I'm hoping to direct a show in a regional theatre studio, but I can't talk about it yet. Then, sometime, I may have a go at starting my own company."

HEATHER NEILL



Mark Rosenlatt: spotted by Thelma Holt while at Oxford

Michael Knipe presents a four-page report on the economy, finance and investment taking place in South Korea

Spirit of revival ready to greet Queen's visit

South Korea marks the first anniversary of President Kim Dae Jung's term of office tomorrow with preparations under way in Seoul, the capital, for an eagerly awaited state visit by the Queen in April.

There are hopes that this royal occasion will set the seal on the country's remarkably speedy turnaround from the financial crisis it suffered when it was forced to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a $58.35 billion (£38.3billion) loan. That was in December 1997, after four decades of astonishing growth averaging 8 per cent a year.

Today the shock of the economic collapse is still apparent. Unemployment rates are expected to rise still further. But the belief is strong that the worst may be over.

There have been a series of indicators in the past few weeks that the programme of radical reforms introduced during the past year by the Kim Dae Jung administration are having the desired effect.

"Today our usable foreign exchange reserves exceed $50 billion," said Mr Lee Kyu Sung, the Minister of Finance and Economy. "In 1997 they had sunk to $4 billion so we have achieved a very dramatic increase."



Foreign Minister Hong

Mr Lee highlighted other firm signs of revival: the exchange rate against the dollar, which a year ago spiralled to 1,950 won, has stabilised at around 1,170 won. Foreign exchange reserves, which had dwindled to $3.8 billion, are now at a record high of $50 billion. Interest rates have dropped dramatically from almost 30 per cent to about 8 per cent and inflows of foreign direct investment last year totalled $8.9 billion — a record.

In December, Seoul began repaying its IMF loan with an amount close to $4 billion, the clearest indication yet, in the eyes of Hubert Neiss, the IMF's director for the Asia and Pacific department, that for South Korea the balance of payments crisis is over. "It is premature to open the champagne," said Hong Soon Young, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with a wry smile. "The economy is not completely out of the turmoil. It is in the midst of restructuring. And restructuring, half finished, can be an invitation to another round of economic crisis.

"So this is no time for complacency or too much optimism. The rules of a free market economy are not firmly in place in the minds and behaviour of the economic players. I believe it will take at least another one or two years before we have the vitality and momentum for economic growth."

Nevertheless, in spite of these words of caution, there is no doubt that the Kim Dae Jung administration believes it is on the right path.

South Koreans are a modest people by nature, an ancient society overshadowed internationally by their richer Japanese neighbours and their more numerous Chinese ones.

There are few obvious signs of the economic depression in Seoul, largely destroyed during the war with the North in the 1950s and now a modern capital of unlovely 1960s and 1970s monumental architecture, cut through by ten and twelve-lane motorways, and relieved only by a few elegant palaces from past eras. Pedestrians have been all but banished to underground shopping malls and cross-street passageways.

However, the city has a thrusting dynamism. Platoons of elegantly uniformed receptionists are on hand in all official buildings, with numerous counter assistants, similarly attired, in modern department stores more chic, if anything, than their Knightsbridge and Fifth Avenue counterparts.



MICHAEL KNIPE

There are few signs of economic depression in Seoul: in some city stores staff wear clothes that are more chic than in Knightsbridge

Bustling side-street shopping centres and street markets are open late and a modern and highly efficient underground and railway system is manned by staff as smartly dressed as military generals.

The Queen's visit will be her first to the Korean peninsula. It was pencilled in on her prospective agenda well before the financial crisis occurred. At that time, Korea's star was burning bright. It had the eleventh-largest economy in the world — ahead of Russia, Australia and India — and was the world's twelfth-largest trading nation. With a population of 46 million it had a per capita income of $10,000 and, in economic terms, it was the biggest country that the Queen had not visited.

As a result of the financial crisis, it has probably slipped down the economic league table somewhat over the past 15 months but what South Korea has lost in terms of its economic standing it has made up for in its democratic progress.

When the presidency passed to Kim Dae Jung, it was the first time that power had been transferred peacefully and democratically in Korea for 50 years.

So the case for the royal visit to go ahead in April is, if anything, stronger: it will show that Britain is not just a fair-weather friend and will demonstrate support for the democratic changes that have occurred.

Relations between the two countries have been traditionally warm and they have been further enhanced by the fact that, during his days as political dissident, President Kim Dae Jung spent a year in Cambridge in 1993, based at the graduate college, Clare Hall. While at Cambridge he was a popular figure, befriended by his neighbour Professor Stephen Hawking — and he has since stated publicly that this period in his life was highly instrumental in what was, in effect, part of his preparation for high office.

Koreans will see the Queen's visit as a tribute to their democratic and economic reforms. This is considered particularly fitting as the structural reforms and free market ideology of the Thatcher years are held in high regard in Seoul.

"We are using Britain as a role model in seeing what government agencies can be delegated to the private sector," said Dr Kim Tae Dong, Senior Secretary to the President for Policy and Planning Affairs. "We hope the British experiment can be repeated in Korea. We firmly believe that the systematic and long-sustained reform can produce sustained growth as it did in Britain."

For Koreans, said Mr Hong, the Queen represents British values: "So this is how we appreciate Her Majesty and, particularly as this is her first visit, she will be assured of a hugely enthusiastic welcome."

Chaebols must reform

ECONOMY

The top five chaebols, the family orientated conglomerates that dominate the South Korean economy, are now the prime targets of the Seoul Government as it presses ahead with the latest stage of its programme to reform the country's fortunes: corporate restructuring.

The five — Hundai, Samsung, Daewoo, LG Group (formerly Lucky Goldstar) and the SK Group (formerly Sunkyong) — together with about 50 smaller chaebols, were for several decades the primary engines of growth for the South Korean economy. However, their numerous and diverse subsidiaries, which borrowed and spent recklessly — amid frequent accusations of corruption — are widely blamed for the bringing the country to its knees economically.

Reforms are helping to revive the country's fortunes

Under pressure from President Kim Dae Jung's administration, the top five chaebols agreed in December to undertake a series of reforms including putting up for sale their marginal and unprofitable units and to focus their activities more directly on their core sectors. But the battle of wills between the Government reformers and the chaebol tycoons is not over.

"Several of the top figures own only 5 or 6 per cent of their conglomerate's shares but act as if they own 100 per cent, and are resisting the reforms the Government is introducing," says Dr Yoo Jong Keun, the Governor of the North Cholla Province and a senior economic adviser to President Kim Dae Jung. "That can no longer be tolerated. For some the overriding concern is to maintain control of their businesses but some will be in danger of losing it."

Dr Yoo, a former economics professor at Rutgers University, is an influential figure in the President's team of reformers and describes himself as "public enemy No 1, as far as the chaebols are concerned".

The top five have committed themselves to shedding 91 of their subsidiaries through mergers, liquidations and sell-offs to foreign business interests. They have also undertaken to repay external debts owed by other subsidiaries to improve their financial standing.

"Last year we devised a very specific plan to restructure the top five chaebols," says Lee Ki Song, the Minister of Finance and Economy. "This year we are making sure the plan will be implemented on schedule. We are determined to ensure that they concentrate on their core areas of competence, that they do not digress from this and that they achieve a debt ratio of 200 per cent by the end of the year. At present the top chaebols have an average of 27 subsidiaries each. And each one of them is running businesses in some 20 different industries. We are determined that this kind of diversification will disappear and when it does I expect Korean companies to re-emerge in the international market with much improved competitiveness."

The three other areas affected by the reform programme are the public, labour and financial sectors.

In the public sector five of 24 non-financial state-owned enterprises have been privatised in stages this year and another six will be by 2002 including Korea Telecom and the Korea Electric Power Corporation, as well as 76 subsidiaries. The process will involve cutting the labour force by 30,000, a 21 per cent fall.

"We are not going to stop there," says Dr Kim Tae Dong, the Senior Secretary to the President for Policy and Planning Affairs. "All government ministries are under management review by outside teams of consultants. No other country has attempted this kind of reform. The purpose will be to decide which government agencies can be delegated to the marketplace."

A campaign to eliminate excessive regulations has so far scrapped about half of nearly 12,000 existing rules.

According to Kang Bong Kyun, Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Affairs, the economic restructuring programme should be completed this year and the economy should return to normal growth next year. But, he says, it will be another three years before the country regains the $10,000 per capita income levels it had before the onset of the financial crisis.



POPPERFOTO

Executive suite: former company chief Suh Sang Rok training to be a waiter at a Seoul hotel

Tycoon works for tips

UNEMPLOYMENT

Despite signs of economic recovery, unemployment in South Korea is at its highest since monthly statistics were first compiled 16 years ago. It is expected to rise to two million this year — more than 8 per cent of the workforce.

Job losses have hit every level. These are explosive statistics in a society that, even under a series of authoritarian regimes, became internationally notorious for violent strikes and demonstrations.

One of the Kim Dae Jung administration's first steps was to pass legislation allowing businesses to lay off workers. For Koreans, who had taken lifetime employment for granted, it was a dramatic step away from traditional practices.

At 62, Suh Sang Rok felt he was secure as vice-chairman of the Samni Group, once the country's 26th-largest conglomerate. But in the turmoil of the economic crisis, he lost his job and so went on a waiter's training course at a large hotel in Seoul.

The new laws provoked a strike at the Hyundai Motor Corporation that became a test case. Resolved after a month by a programme of lay-offs, unpaid leave and early retirements, it was seen as a significant victory for greater industrial labour flexibility.

The Government also created a tripartite commission comprising representatives of trade unions, industrial management and the Government to handle labour relations. But, with the unemployment rate increasing, the prospect of more industrial unrest is looming. Angry union activists have criticised the Government and corporate heads for unilaterally laying off workers in the name of restructuring.

"The trouble is that you cannot make unemployment disappear. There is no such solution," says Dr Yoo Jong Keun, an economic adviser to the President. "The UK has been through this. What we are having to do is direct our efforts to extending the welfare safety nets so that our unemployed are not destitute."

Last year the Government spent $8.5 billion extending welfare benefits, says Dr Kim Mo Im, Minister of Health and Welfare, and her budget this year will increase by 25 per cent. "We are placing the emphasis on improving welfare benefits and retraining people for new jobs in new sectors."

Shelters have been set up for the homeless unemployed, and dole pay-outs extended from three to six months. Public work projects have been created and retraining programmes developed.

The relative absence of serious labour unrest in the past year, as Koreans rallied to support the Government in the face of an economic crisis, was an important element in the recovery.

Foreign investment was another but, if labour unrest occurs now, it will be very difficult to attract more foreign money.

Reign of the bank-tamer

FINANCE

Lee Hun Jai is diminutive in stature and — wearing a navy blue cardigan in his office in the centre of Seoul — he projects a mild and charming demeanour. Yet Mr Lee is the Korean Government's chief financial hatchet man, charged with ending decades of collusion between banks and chaebols, the family-orientated conglomerates which dominate the South Korean economy.

Since April last year he has forced the closure of five Korean banks, the merger of four others, closed down 16 merchant banks and four life insurance companies. Dozens of finance companies have been shut down and the banking sector was ordered to shed a third of its workforce — 40,000 people.

Mr Lee currently has seven more insurance companies in his sights and expects to close down at least three of them. Naturally, he said, there had been lots of resistance to such closures.

Lee Hun Jai: threats made him move house and stay in hotels

It was, after all, the first time in Korean history that such a thing had happened. Everyone believed that banks would never go under because they had the Government behind them.

However, a year ago the economic collapse coincided with the election of a new Government which imposed a programme of radical economic reform.

Mr Lee does not make a big thing of it but, according to his staff, the responses to his actions were so threatening, initially, that, for safety, he moved discreetly out of his house and into his wife's art studio and various hotels.

The authority Mr Lee exerts stems from the fact that he is chairman of the South Korea Finance Supervisory Commission, the Government's watchdog body responsible for ensuring that Korea's banking and financial services comply with international standards of probity and transparency.

Since November 1997, said Mr Lee, 40.9 trillion won (about $40 billion) had been spent on restructuring the financial sector, including nearly 20 trillion won on the purchase of 44.1 trillion won worth of non-performing loans held by financial institutions.

A good start had been made, he said, but much more needed to be done. One of the most important things he said, was to change the mind-sets of the banking managements who had worked so long in an environment in which, under the umbrella of government protection, financial institutions had indulged in questionable lending practices.

Reckless lenders had been paired with reckless borrowers. Chaebols pursued excessively leveraged expansion based on a "too-big-to-fail" theory.

The cosy relationship between the banks and chaebols was revealed when the Hanbo Group — one of the 15 biggest industrial concerns — collapsed in January 1997. A loans-for-bribes scandal emerged and a rash of bankruptcies ensued.

Mr Lee is now focusing his attention on corporate restructuring.

The measures being used include the phasing out of cross guarantees, the reduction in debt to equity ratio, debt workouts with bank creditors, reductions of affiliates and the elimination of excess capacity.

There had been much progress in restructuring the small and mediums sized groups, he said, but this was proving more difficult with the big five — Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, LG and SK — whose structures and affiliations were extremely complex.

The big five sold 35 affiliates to foreign companies last year and have stated that they will dispose of another 91 of their subsidiaries through mergers, liquidations and sell-offs to foreign business interests this year.

He has urged the creditors of the big chaebols to force financial reform during the first half of this year. If the chaebols failed to reform themselves, the Government would force through the necessary changes, he said. It would take time but, he predicted, by the end of this year it would have been achieved fundamentally.

The net losses of Korean banks last year hit a record high of 14.48 trillion won compared with losses of 3.88 trillion in 1997.

Doors open for inward investment

INVESTMENT

The British-based Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation was chosen this week by the South Korean Government to take over the majority shareholding of the ailing Seoul Bank. It is only the second Korean bank to be sold to a foreign enterprise. The first was the Korea First Bank which was purchased last month by an international consortium headed by the United States-based Newbridge Capital.

The announcement of the second sale came only days after Stephen Brown, the British Ambassador to Seoul, publicly expressed his regret that British companies, with what he said were very good bids, were consistently losing out to American investors. His comments, in an interview with the English-language *Korea Times* newspaper, was seen as an expression of disappointment at the sale of the Korea First Bank to the American conglomerate and an indication of the competitive pressure among the international community to acquire a toehold in South Korea Incorporated.

Foreign direct investment into the country totalled $8.85 billion last year, a record high and a 27 per cent increase on 1997. The Government's target for this year is $15 billion.

Of this UK investment amounted to $60 million, a slight increase over the previous year. And if British Telecom's investment in Korea's LG Telecom — which was made through the BT affiliate in the Netherlands — is added on the total of investment amount from the UK surged to $457 million.

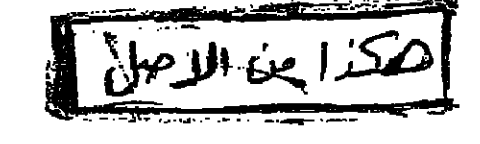
This month has seen two major British investments. PowerGen UK is investing $210 million in LG Energy, a subsidiary of the LG Group, to build a 528 megawatt gas-fired combined-cycle gas turbine plant at Asan Bay in South Chungchong Province. It will be the first power plant constructed in Korea by a private company. And British Aerospace has won a £46 million contract from the South Korean navy to develop and produce the combat management system for three 5,000-tonne South Korean destroyers. Meanwhile, Tesco is setting up a joint venture firm with the marketing division of Samsung.

"In the past Korea did not pay attention to the need for foreign investment," said Park Tae Young, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy. In 1996 it was only 2.4 per cent of GDP compared with more than 20 per cent in the UK. But since the extent of the financial crisis became apparent the public had come to realise that it was an imperative element of economic recovery.

Attracting foreign investment is now a top priority and the Government has shifted the direction of policy towards promoting rather than regulating it. The types of business eligible for tax reduction or exemption has been expanded from 265 to 533 and foreign investment zones have been established in which incentives are offered to foreign investors who create new business.

At present foreign investors receive benefits only when their individual investment exceeds $100 million. But in an effort to entice more small-scale foreign investors, the Government is considering providing tax incentives to groups of small companies engaged in similar lines of work if their aggregate investment amounts to $100 million. "Now we are allowing even hostile mergers and acquisitions of Korean companies by foreign companies and foreigners can also own real estate here," Mr Park says.

The Government is also keen to promote venture capital enterprises. "I believe that if we can combine British advanced technology and capital with Korean manufacturing power then companies here will be able to enhance their competitiveness considerably, so I expect more investment from Britain," Mr Park adds.



Friends or foes?

Michael Knipe reports on a pale glint of sunshine

If you use a pair of binoculars to peer through the winter mist across the demilitarised zone between South and North Korea, you can just make out the shape of a North Korean border guard in a watchtower, staring back.

This, the world's most fortified border, dividing the Stalinist North from the democratised South, is one of the last remnants of the Cold War.

A South Korean soldier points out the buildings of Khungdong which, he says, is a fake North Korean village. There are no fires and no laundry hung out to dry.

When the wind is blowing in the right direction the North Koreans occasionally dispatch balloons carrying leaflets extolling the virtues of their President, Kim Jong Il. But the confrontation along the demilitarised zone (DMZ), just 27 miles north of Seoul is, at present, mostly uneventful.

The most recent North Korean defector to cross over made his move five months ago and there has been no shooting across the border for at least a year. North Korean propaganda, which used to blast across the DMZ through huge speakers for 18 hours a day, now spouts forth for no more than five hours a day. "That's because the North is so short of electricity," says Corporal Park Min Woo.

The shortage of electricity, like the rash of attempted escapes across North Korea's northern border into China, are signs of the desperate economic plight of the Pyongyang regime and are of great concern to President Kim Dae Jung's Government in Seoul.

On taking office, the South Korean President embarked on a "sunshine policy" aimed at achieving peace on the Korean peninsula through reconciliation and co-operation with the Pyongyang Government. Opposition critics fear that in the face of the North's development of long-range missiles and a suspected nuclear facility, this approach may prove to be nothing better than a policy of appeasement.



Warriors and peacemakers: soldiers at the border and Chung Ju Yung with his cattle

The Government in Seoul rejects this. Hong Soon Young, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, says: "Our policy is that the North Korean regime must be warned sternly of the penalties they face over such provocations, but that these should be seen in the context of inter-Korean relations and in no circumstances should there be overreaction. There should be no black or white reactions to acts of provocation. This is what diplomacy is all about."

Instead Seoul is trying to promote what it describes an atmosphere which will help Pyongyang to start reform of its own volition. It is actively pushing for South-North co-operation and exchanges. There are indications of positive change of a limited but distinct nature, says Mr Hong. The regime is lessening its state of isolation and showing signs of taking account of market forces.

Kim Hyung Kee, the head of unification policy at the Ministry of Unification, points to the Government's policy of allowing private-sector exchanges across the border. The most spectacular of these was orchestrated and then led by Chung Ju Yung, 83, the founder and honorary chairman of Hyundai, the largest of Korea's conglomerates.

Last June he became the first South Korean civilian to enter North Korea across the DMZ at Panmunjom. Accompanied by TV cameras, he took with him 500 head of cattle which, it was hoped, would help to improve North stock. A gift to the people of his native Tongchon district, the animals were transported on 50 trucks specially built by Hyundai for the trip and also donated to the North. On his return, Mr Chung sent a further 500 head of cattle and donated 50,000 tons of grain, spending a total of $8.5 million on the venture.

In November, Mr Chung began offering South Koreans cruise trips through the East Sea to view Mount Kumgang (Diamond Mountain), a North Korean peak of great symbolic significance to Koreans. The passengers were the first South Korean tourists to visit the North since the peninsula was divided half a century ago.

One of the passengers reported that the sightseeing area they visited was extremely limited and that they were not allowed to deviate from the designated course. They had no opportunity to make contact with North Koreans. The few people they saw beyond the barbed wire were expressionless and indifferent to them "as if we weren't there".

In spite of these drawbacks, Mr Chung has more ambitious plans. The Hyundai Group has obtained exclusive rights from the Pyongyang regime to develop tourist facilities on and around Mount Kumgang. It plans to invest $397 million by the end of next year to build ski resorts, golf courses, condominiums and hotels. Hyundai has already paid $2.4 million to the North from the Mount Kumgang entrance fees: Hyundai is also drawing up a masterplan for the development of an industrial complex covering with a total area of 66 million square metres on the west coast of North Korea.

هكذا من الأصل

Jennifer Veale reports from Seoul on an imminent political dogfight, while **Ruth Taplin** examines the benefits of UK-Korean business deals

POLITICS



YUN SUK-BONG/REUTERS

Steering the country out of troubled times: Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean President, is optimistic about his country's future

Honeymoon over for champion of reform

Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean President, starts his second year in office *this* week, a turning point which looks certain to mark the end of his honeymoon with some old-fashioned political brawling.

During an impressive debut year, the former dissident has won respect *worldwide for his* determination to implement a political agenda aimed at opening up a shuttered economy in the face of powerful vested interests. But 1999 will prove the acid test of his capacity to make the really tough decisions.

President Kim faces mounting political challenges. After lying low for most of last year while the Government went about fixing the economy, the Opposition is now exploiting the exasperation of a recession-hit public to stir protest against painful reforms to the powerful conglomerates (*known as chaebols*) with which it has close ties. In addition, the President's unlikely coalition with the man who headed Korea's spy agency during his dissident days is looking shaky over delays to landmark reforms to the political system.

But the challenges issued by the opposition and the chaebols are becoming President Kim's biggest headaches. They are spoiling for a brawl over the key element of his economic reforms — business swaps and mergers known as "big deals" which have been designed to trim back the sprawling conglomerates.

A year of political blood-letting beckons. The opposition Grand National Party accuses President Kim's National Congress for New Politics of discriminating against *chaebols from the GNP's southeastern* strongholds. It also challenges strong-arm tactics that it says the Government is using to push the "big deals" through.

"The honeymoon is over," says Jon Gryn Mo, a political science professor at Yonsei University in Seoul. "Basically, for the first six months, President Kim could do whatever he wanted. Now everyone is showing signs of resistance."

The GNP lost by a whisker at the last election, ending a 50-year monopoly of political power by con*servative parties. But it has re*grouped and is mounting a fresh challenge to President Kim's coalition Government. Lee Hoi Chang, the GNP leader, has accused President Kim of acting like a dictator and of fanning chronic regional antipathies by discriminating against areas outside his political stronghold in the southwest provinces.

Driving the GNP's resurgence is its fear that it may be reduced to a rump if the NCNP succeeds in eroding its power-base in the southwest provinces, as it must do to win re-election in its own right. Already the NCNP has secured a House majority by poaching two dozen of the opposition's law-makers.

Currently, the proxy war being fought is over the Government's plan to trim back the operations of the chaebols, whose loan binges *contributed to the economic crisis.* These "big deals" will result in sweeping lay-offs.

The GNP claims that most job losses will hit its power-base of South Kyongsang Province, where most of the top chaebols are based. It has drawn strength from a disgruntled public fearful for their jobs, and is calling on the Government to stop force-feeding reforms down the throats of the chaebols.

The GNP's determination to make this year a difficult one for President Kim was exemplified at a protest rally it staged late last month against a planned "big deal" between Samsung and Daewoo. The rally served as a wake-up call for the Government.

"*The Government* was stunned by the turnout and the people's mood," Professor Jon Gryn Mo says. But it has since picked up the scent of discontent and recently began peacemaking moves with the GNP, the fruits of which have not yet ripened.

> A year of political brawling beckons as resistance grows

While fighting a pumped-up opposition, the NCNP also has problems closer to home. Its alliance with the United Liberal Democrats, led by the deeply conservative former spy agency boss Kim Jong Pil, is under strain because of delays in implementing political reforms.

President Kim, a *champion of democracy,* pledged during his campaign to dilute the virtually unchallenged power of the President by vesting more power in the Prime Minister, who would be responsible to parliament.

Kim Jong Pil, the current Prime Minister, has recently been outspoken about his desire to see his coalition partner make good on the promise. While the NCNP insists that it will act on its pledge, it has been put on the back-burner as the Government tackles the more weighty matter of economic recovery.

"Kim Jong Pil isn't expected to sit idly by if the President ditches that promise," says Professor Lee Jong Hoon, a political scientist.

In an ironic twist, the Opposi*tion's campaign to wreck the* NCNP's bid to establish political hegemony may be in Kim Jong Pil's best interests.

Observers say that parliamentary reforms to appease the coalition partner will be pushed down the NCNP priority list if it believes it can win an election without the help of the ULD.

Adventures in joint ventures

INVESTMENT IN UK

Korean outward investment to the UK has slowed. With the economic turmoil forcing the chaebols to restructure, the resultant selling and exchanging of assets has become a preoccupation for them.

Samsung, for example, has sold its automotive sector to Daewoo and the latter has sold its electronics division to Samsung. Meanwhile, Samsung is consolidating its electronics division in the UK and is moving its headquarters from Frankfurt to London.

Hyundai is in the final stages of buying the semiconductor division of LG, including the new semiconductor plant in Wales. It now remains to be seen what Hyundai will do with the operation planned for Newport in South Wales.

Daewoo continues to be a stable source of employment and investment in the UK, with its automotive division showing signs of substantial success.

The emphasis in relation to investments lies at present with those companies seeking venture capital and joint ventures. Venture companies in Korea are defined as advanced technology businesses that achieve growth through continuous research and development which amounts to at least 10 per cent of turnover.

The most important component of the Korean venture industry is the high level of education of the Korean workforce. The majority of engineers, for example, hold PhDs and most have been educated in the United States. Some Koreans study in the UK, and universities in cities such as Newcastle are attempting *to attract greater numbers.*

Korean venture companies produce many innovative products but require greater capital investment to commercialise their internationally competitive technologies and products. Some are now linking themselves to the chaebols, which have the global sales markets and the foreign capital required. However, there is a big drive under way to attract foreign investors to the UK.

Last November KOTRA, the Korean trade organisation, brought to the UK representatives of a wide range of venture companies, in areas ranging from electronics to textiles, some of whom were successful in finding joint-venture partners in Britain.

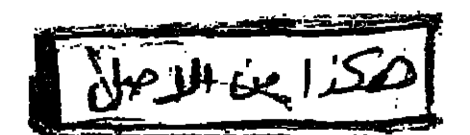
The majority of Korean companies go to the US for their capital, but the UK is now seen as more promising, as the nature of venture capital is becoming more flexible. Successes in such partnerships in the long term can only benefit inward investment into the UK as joint ventures flourish, providing capital returns to British investors *and, in the future, new factories* and employment.



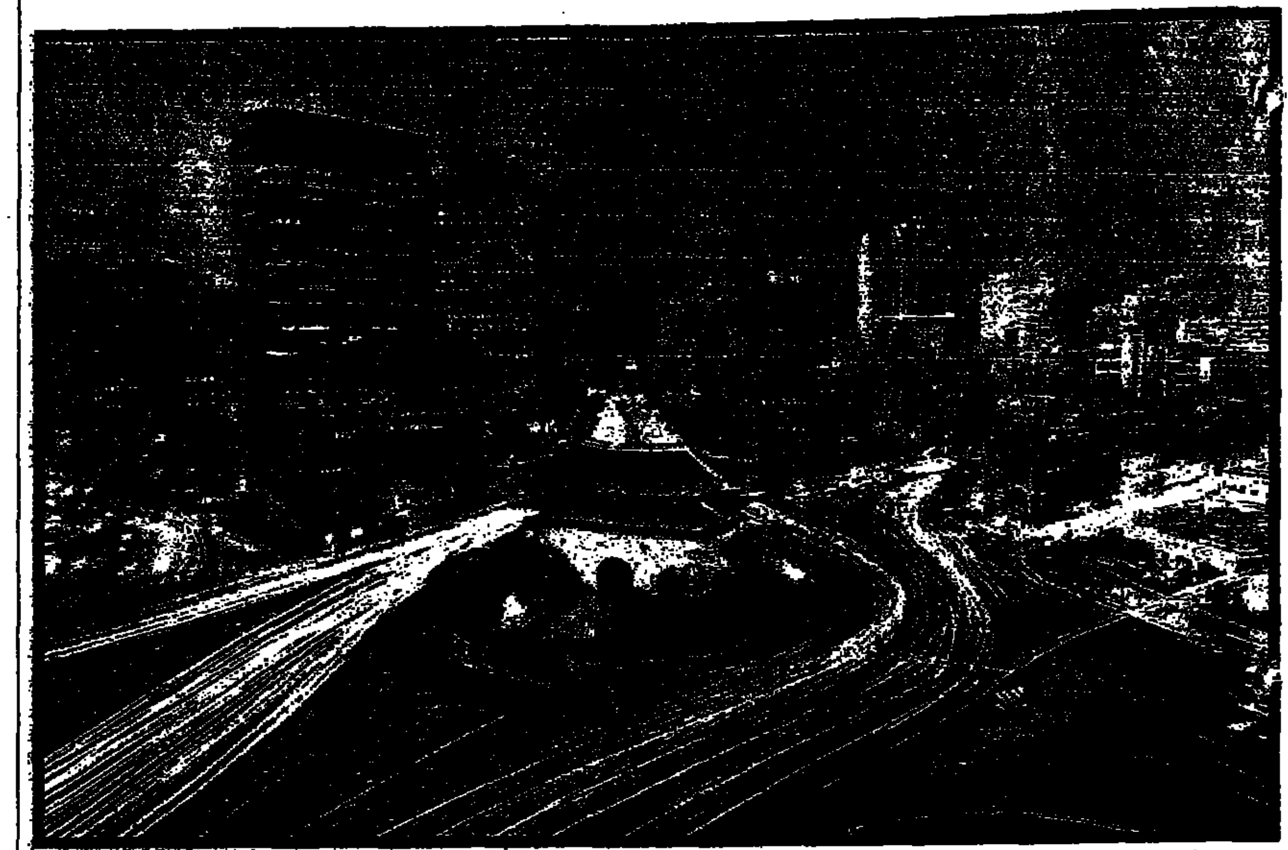
Daewoo's automotive operation in the UK is proving a success







Get smart and get out of that jam



Korean traffic at night: road improvements and intelligent transport systems are helping to remove congestion

Ruth Taplin reports on how co-operation between the UK and South Korea could help to improve road and rail travel

Traffic is heavy in Seoul and other big Korean cities, largely because of an excess of cars and excessive road-building. But a number of bold initiatives are being undertaken to deal with traffic congestion.

This is leading to greater co-operation between the UK and South Korea in the field of intelligent transport systems (ITS).

A two-week mission to Korea by ITS Focus, a British transport research organisation, supported by the DTI, was impressed by the success of one Korean initiative to deal with traffic congestion. This is based on the use of a high-tech e-commerce-based smartcard.

Pusan, the second largest city in South Korea, loses $1.3 billion each year because of traffic congestion. To combat the problem, the authorities have introduced the Hanaro (buy only one) smartcard system which makes it easier for people to use public transport.

The card can be used to pay for bus, minibus travel and the underground rail service in Pusan. An electronic purse model is also available which can pay for taxis and goods in shops. The simpler prepaid card is more popular and allows for fare discounts if used regularly. The take-up has been 76 per cent of the 200 million commuters targeted since the Hanaro system was initiated last August.

The British mission also noted that unlike the UK, the Korea Highway Corporation (KHC) is helping to develop road traffic conditions that will relieve overall traffic congestion, and it has initiated a new era of expressway building. The intention is that increased road capacity will be built with an integral ITS linked to a network of regional traffic control centres.

Despite the country's economic turmoil these ambitious plans are continuing. The ITS mission believes that UK companies can learn from these plans and members can also offer supportive services to the Koreans to further the plans.

Co-operation and collaboration between the UK and Korea in the realm of automotive development takes many forms and is invaluable for both sides.

Since Daewoo Motors came to Britain, for example, the AA has been providing purchasers of its vehicles with a three-year free servicing warranty and roadside assistance package. The association also provides a recovery and replacement car service.

So much emphasis has been placed on takeovers and swap deals of major chaebols that the success of other smaller conglomerates which provide necessary components — particularly in the transportation sector — sometimes goes unrecognised.

Kumho Tire, for example, through using the latest high-tech equipment, is constantly improving its tyre quality and reputation for safety.

RACING: LOSS OF 1,000 GUINEAS FAVOURITE AND DOUBTS ABOUT BIONIC MAR CLASSIC OUTLOOK

Bint Allayl put down after injuring leg

By Chris McGrath

BINT ALLAYL, the champion juvenile filly and favourite for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas, was put down late on Monday night after a frantic battle to save her after she sustained leg injuries during exercise that morning.

Her death not only deprives the forthcoming Flat season of one of its most luminous young talents, but is also a ghastly blow to Mick Channon, whom she had helped reach new heights in his audacious second career in sport.

Yesterday's meeting at Sedgefield was called off because parts of the course in the back straight still had frost. The fixture was to have been the first at the track since three horses were killed in an horrific collision there last Tuesday.

Though Channon is not the type to be deluded by his breakthrough achievements last year, even he must feel shocked by so savage a reminder of his new calling's uncertainties.

He was typically lacking in self-pity yesterday. "You can only be positive in a situation like this," he said. "We were lucky to have her and now we have to move on. Tomorrow morning, we'll go out to work and see if we can find another one. It's tough on me, sure, but it's tough on the staff and the owner, too. Sheikh Ahmed has plenty of horses, but he thought an awful lot of her."

The trainer added: "Everyone is very disappointed, but it's the business we're in, I'm afraid."

If any of Bionic's ante-post supporters are cynical enough to scent profit from the tragedy, however, they will thoroughly deserve the torments in store during the coming weeks.

Henry Cecil, her trainer, confesses that Bionic's foot problems menace her participation in the Guineas. His first priority, however, was to express sympathy for the calamity that claimed her longtime market rival.

The irony is that Channon had only retained the services of Bint Allayl against two more obvious threats. She dodged the draft to Dubai with Godolphin, and also underwent surgery on a hock, which denied her what Channon might justly consider "a penalty kick" for the Cheveley Park Stakes. That fell to Wannabe Grand, whom she had beaten with customary flair in the Lowther Stakes at York.

Channon still had much his best season, showing great assurance in handling his first yearlings from Sheikh Ahmed al-Maktoum, for whom he also won the Gimcrack Stakes with Josr Algarhoud. Though that colt did go to Dubai, Channon's allocation has been doubled to 12.

Anthony Stroud, the Sheikh's racing manager, said: "While doing a routine canter Bint Allayl suffered a complete spiral fracture of her left-fore humerus. She was given emergency first aid on site and transported to Donnington Grove Veterinary Surgery." Here five experts strove in vain to rescue the filly. Stroud added: "Sheikh Ahmed would like to thank them and their staff for their tireless efforts. Mick Channon, who trained her so well, Candy Morris, who rode her, and her dedicated lass, Alwena Jones."

The Green Desert filly had shared 5-1 Guineas favouritism with Bionic in the Tote's betting. Bionic now has that dubious honour to herself, at 4-1, followed on 9-1 by Moiava and Etizaaz. Ladbrokes, better attuned to Cecil's problems, prefers Moiava as favourite at 7-1, with Bionic as big as 9-1.

Even that price will make no appeal to anyone reading Cecil's frank update. "She has problems with her feet and it's a question of whether we can train her with them," he said. "It will put itself right eventually, it's a matter of the time we have got. She has been cantering, but not just lately, as she had a corn that had to be cut out. That's not her major problem. She is trotting now and I hope she'll be cantering by the end of the week."

Bionic was restricted to just one appearance at two, impressing in a Goodwood maiden, so she will be sorely lacking experience even if Cecil can get her to the classic.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Bint Allayl wins the Lowther Stakes at York last season on her way to being acclaimed Europe's top juvenile filly

McCoy escapes lightly from heavy Ludlow fall

By Chris McGrath

TONY McCOY often appears as indestructible as he can be invincible and the champion jockey was certainly lucky to escape serious injury at Ludlow yesterday.

Leading over the first in the novice handicap chase on Northern Drums, McCoy was thrown to the ground and trampled underfoot by the following field. He lay motionless before being stretchered by ambulance to Hereford Hospital for X-rays.

Happily, his vow leaving the course — "I'll take more than this to keep me out of the Cheltenham Festival" — proved no mere bravado, and he was later discharged with nothing more serious than a badly bruised right leg. How his colleague, Andrew Thornton, must envy his good fortune. He makes a welcome return at Folkestone today, after surgery on a leg infection at the end of the year.

The only inflammation at the annual general meeting of the Betting Office Licensees' Association (BOLA) yesterday was verbal. Even here its chairman, Chris Bell, distanced himself from "fizz and froth" over the forthcoming negotiations between racing and betting industries on the next Levy Scheme.

He undertook to keep the "temperature of discussions under control" — and he may have gone some way towards that objective by extending something of an olive twig to the British Horseracing Board (BHB). He told his fellow bookmakers: "I am sympathetic to the challenges of the level of prize-money in racing, and I do want to see targeted improvements."

Though he could see nothing remotely resembling a crisis in racing, he conceded that there is always room for improvement. He was "not complacent". He added: "Nevertheless, at its core the BHB Financial Plan simply does not reveal a state of crisis, except in one clear category — the owners' desire to have a higher level of financial return. On all other issues, in the main, we agree."

He added: "What we can do is ensure that, above all of those shrill voices, we patiently and comprehensively explain our position to those prepared to make reasoned judgments. There are lots of people in positions of responsibility in bookmaking and racing who fit that category."

Peter Savill, the BHB chairman who has matched the early inflexibility of the betting industry's hawks, expressed confidence that he could bring the Levy Board neutrals round to his point of view, "line by line". Certainly he will not shrink from that challenge.

THUNDERER
2.00 Oversman
2.30 Stormyfairweather
3.05 Tyrolean Dream
3.35 Out By Night
4.05 Christiansted
4.40 COUNT KARMUSKI (nap)
5.10 Wynyard Dancer

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.40 YOUBETTERBELIEVEIT.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 TETE-A-TETE SELLING HURDLE (£1,646: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

101 000-00 BALLINA BOY 26 (M Browne) J FitzGerald 6-11-3 ... M A Fitzgerald —
102 0-000F MEMBERS WELCOME 84 (D,S) (W Tinning) W Tinning 6-11-3 ... N Horrocks (5) 53
103 042123 OVERSMAN 11 (B,D,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 6-11-3 R Dunwoody
104 00/0U6 PACKITIN PARKY 47 (A A Packaging Ltd) D McCain 6-11-3 ... A C Coyle (5) —
105 0 PETER PERFECT 19E (V) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-3 ... R Farrant 12
106 WILD CITY 30F (P Crook) R Marvin 5-11-3 ... Gary Lyons —
107 450314 WYNBURY FLYER 19 (BF,D,S) (Mrs G Seymour) F Murphy 4-10-13 ... A Maguire 85
108 CATHIES FLOWER 636F (Mrs P Brennan) O Brennan 5-10-12 ... M Brennan —
109 INSPIRATIONAL 490F (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 5-10-12 ... B Powell —
110 0PP ROSE SHARP 18 (F Coton) F Coton 5-10-12 ... Mr C Rae —
111 CAMPIONE 48F (Mrs P Kalman) M Tompkins 4-10-7 ... R Johnson —
112 LOBUCHE 7F (G Whiting) M Chapman 4-10-7 ... W Worthington —
113 P TRUST GEORGE 8 (R Kernohan) C Kellett 4-10-7 ... Mr R Armson —
114 P MY BET 19 (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 4-10-2 ... B McPhail (5) —
115 SPORTY SPICE 96F (Dr C Ashpole) J L Harris 4-10-2 ... D Gallagher —

BETTING: 4-5 Oversman, 9-4 Wynbury Flyer, 14-1 Ballina Boy, 16-1 Sporty Spice, 20-1 Peter Perfect, 25-1 others.

1998: SKELTON SOVEREIGN 4-10-7 Gary Lyons (50-1) R Hollinshead 20 ran

Ballina Boy 62l 14th of 17 to All Gong in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to soft). Oversman ½l 3rd of 15 to Radanpour in selling hurdle at Catterick (2m, good); previously 7l 2nd of 13 to Forty Love in selling handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft). Peter Perfect 44l 13th of 18 to River Frontier in selling hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Wynbury Flyer 7¼l 4th of 19 to Moonshine Dancer in selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good); previously beat King's Hussar neck in 13-runner 4yo novice selling hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Campione no worthwhile form on Flat when tried between 5f and 9f. Lobuche fair handicapper at best on Flat, winner over 6f at Yarmouth last June.

OVERSMAN has performed well in defeat since winning in this grade last month

2.30 MINNOW NOVICES CHASE (£2,999: 3m) (7 runners)

201 P0P116 GRATE DEEL 55 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Ashby) Mrs S Smith 9-11-10 ... S Durack 100
202 P2-133 STORMYFAIRWEATHER 25 (F,S) (Mrs C Hartery) N Henderson 7-11-4 ... M A Fitzgerald
203 1-2PPP GRAND CANYON 35 (D,S) (Mrs H Putt) P Eccles 6-10-12 ... D Byrne —
204 5/P/PP LUKER BOY 78 (Luker Bros (Removals & Storage) Ltd) J McConnochie 9-10-12 ... R Bellamy —
205 P1-R3U MR PERKUPP 23 (D,S) (Mrs M Keegan) Lord Tyrone 8-10-12 ... R Widger (5) —
206 50-0P REMI DOONE 58 (St James Racing Club Cheltenham) N Babbage 7-10-12 ... P Holley —
207 3U2-02 TAKE COVER 44 (S) (A & M Barnett) M Tompkins 8-10-12 ... A Maguire 119

BETTING: 2-5 Stormyfairweather, 9-2 Take Cover, 6-1 Grate Deel, 20-1 Mr Perkupp, 33-1 others.

1998: GRANGE COURT 8-11-4 A P McCoy (3-1 fav) I Williams 12 ran

Grate Deel 45l 6th of 14 to The Next Waltz in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Lothian Commander 17l in 6-runner novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft). Stormyfairweather 31l 3rd of 6 to Fadey Wood in novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft); previously 12l 3rd of 5 to Steel Cracker in novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good). Mr Perkupp unseated rider in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, soft); previously beaten a distance 3rd of 7 to Collier Bay in novice chase at Huntingdon (3m, soft) with Grand Canyon (levels) pulled up. Take Cover 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Tuckers Town in novice handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, soft).

STORMYFAIRWEATHER needs to polish up his jumping but should make his class tell

3.05 TOTE HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£5,885: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

301 0-1126 TYROLEAN DREAM 86 (D,G,S) (P Heath) M Tompkins 5-12-0 ... A Maguire
302 P-2FP3 GINGER FOX 27 (C,D,G,S) (M Van Doorne) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-13 ... R Dunwoody 97
303 -50305 NEW INN 25 (CD,F,G,S) (J Stewart) S Gollings 8-11-10 ... D Gallagher 94
304 1-1214 HOH INVADER 67 (D,F,S) (D Abbott) C Mann 7-11-9 ... J Magee 94
305 22-111 KATHRYN'S PET 25 (CD,F,G,S) (B Brown) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-5 ... Mr A Dempsey (3) 104
306 2-3162 CLASSIC EAGLE 11 (B,BF,D,F,G) (Classic Bloodstock Plc) Mrs D Haine 6-11-5 ... G Bradley 110
307 12462P SAMMAND 11 (B,F,B,S) (Mrs T O'Toole) Miss L Siddall 7-11-2 ... T Siddall (5) 105
308 011006 SAINT CIEL 11 (D,B,S) (Tom Racing) F Jordan 11-10-10 ... — 73
309 268314 TIME FOR ACTION 25 (G,S) (B & A Beacham) C Mann 7-10-10 ... M A Fitzgerald 119
310 01/131 THE BREWMASTER 18 (D,S) (J Poynton & J Brewer) I Williams 7-10-9 ... G Tormey 112

BETTING: 7-2 Kathryn's Pet, 4-1 Hoh Invader, 9-2 The Brewmaster, 7-1 Time For Action, 8-1 Tyrolean Dream, 10-1 New Inn, Classic Eagle, 12-1 others.

1998: NORDANCE PRINCE 7-10-7 N Williamson (6-4 fav) Miss V Williams 8 ran

Tyrolean Dream 12l 6th of 10 to Wahiba Sands in handicap hurdle grade 2 at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft) with Ginger Fox (1lb better off) pulled up. Hoh Invader 15l 4th of 7 to Hidebound in novice hurdle grade 2 [illegible]

HOH INVADER [illegible]

3.35 LIBERTY BELLS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,253: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

401 12/U23 B THE ONE 37 (F) (A Page & J Pollard) J J Quinn 8-11-10 ... L Wyer 102
402 -FP4P2 MANASIS 25 (G) (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-11-7 ... A Dobbin 108
403 22/2-0 SCUD MISSILE 93 (D,F,G) (A Collins) M Heaton-Ellis 8-11-4 ... R Widger (5) 39
404 282525 VERYWELL 67 (G,S) (Mrs T McInnes Skinner) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 8-11-3 ... T Reed 87
405 660233 JOE SHAW 11 (G) (F Gillespie) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-2 ... P Niven 105
406 0F-334 CARLISLE BANDITO'S 55 (BF,F,G) (C Deakes) J Berry 7-10-13 ... B Powell 108
407 3-3F4F PURPLE ACE 40 (Sir Christopher Walford) N Gaselee 7-10-12 ... J A McCarthy 87
408 2-0056 FRYUP SATELLITE 11 (D,G) (J Leese) Mrs J Brown 8-10-11 ... Miss P Robson 100
409 1-4144 CARACOL 26 (D,G,S) (C Bolton) J Neville 10-10-9 ... T Dascombe —
410 46-F16 BOYZONTOOWA 32 (D,F,S) (J Maguire) W Storey 7-10-9 ... R McGrath 102
411 -3F2U4 OUT BY NIGHT 37 (A Coupland) G M Moore 8-10-4 ... J Callaghan 107
412 6025P4 LEAP IN THE DARK 25 (F,S) (Mrs D Morris) Miss L Siddall 10-10-3 ... T Siddall (5) 104
413 /3944/ RARE OCCURANCE 694 (R Harris) A Carroll 9-10-2 ... T J Murphy —
414 -13PGU DRAGONS BAY 37 (G) (P Owen) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-1 ... Mr A Dempsey (3)
415 P6P324 MADE OF STEEL 32 (I Emmerson) I Emmerson 10-10-1 ... J Supple 104
416 /4P-5P COUNTRYMAN 67 (H Parker) T George 8-10-0 ... R Walley —

Long handicap: Countryman 9-8.

BETTING: 7-2 Manasis, 6-1 Joe Shaw, 7-1 Carlisle Bandito's, Out By Night, 8-1 Purple Ace, Boyzontoowa, 10-1 B The One, Made Of Steel, 12-1 others.

1998: GLAMANGLITZ 8-11-10 A P McCoy (5-2 fav) P Dalton 11 ran

B The One 22l 3rd of 12 to Looks Like Trouble in novice chase at Doncaster (3m, good). Manasis 1¾l 2nd of 7 to Mister Lamp in novice chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with Leap In The Dark (18lb better off) beaten a distance 4th. Scud Missile 59l 7th of 17 to Garrison Friendly in novice handicap chase at Windsor (3m, good); previously 8l 2nd of 6 to Apachee Flower in handicap hurdle at Southwell (3m 110yd, good to firm). Verywell 46l last of 6 to Nipper Reed in novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy); previously 20l 2nd of 4 to Kadou Nonantais in novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, soft). Joe Shaw 4l 3rd of 8 to Bamburgh Boy in novice chase at Catterick (2m, good) with Fryup Satellite (5lb better off) 22l 6th. Purple Ace fell in novice handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, soft); previously 34l 4th of 10 to Double Tempo in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Caracol 36l 4th of 7 to Shoofk in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Out By Night 7¾l 4th of 12 to Hang'em Out To Dry in novice handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) with Fryup Satellite (2lb better off) 9¼l 5th and Dragons Bay (1lb worse off) unseated rider. Rare Occurance 23l 4th of 6 to Ollie A Man in novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm). Made Of Steel 7½l 4th of 10 to Castletown Count in novice handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, soft) with Boyzontoowa (3lb worse off) 18l 6th.

JOE SHAW has shown his wellbeing in recent placed efforts. He should again go close

4.05 CANALICULATUS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,303: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

501 4061 CHRISTIANSTED 19 (G) (J Doddy) F Murphy 11-4 ... A Maguire 81
502 424510 ERRIGAL 12 (BF,D,S) (Ford Associated Racing Team) D Nicholson 11-4 R Johnson 77
503 22206 LAMBRINI LAD 90 (Halewood International Ltd) A Bailey 10-12 ... S Wynne
504 NORTHDAY 206F (W Wright) M Sowersby 10-12 ... D Byrne —
505 PAGAN 200F (Mrs P Hartley) M W Easterby 10-12 ... C McCormack (3) —
506 00 TABERNACLE 25 (M Myers) C Mann 10-12 ... J Magee —
507 6 TRAVELLING CLOCK 37 (R Bedding) B McMahon 10-12 ... S Durack 30
508 00P MAKE IT SO 37 (Pratts Partnership) P Eccles 10-7 ... M Scales (7) —
509 SILVER SEA 149F (Mrs S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 10-7 ... G Tormey —

BETTING: 7-4 Christiansted, 9-4 Errigal, 5-1 Pagan, 6-1 Lambrini Lad, 8-1 Travelling Clock, 25-1 others.

1998: DOYENNE 10-7 G Bradley (25-1) Mrs D Haine 9 ran

Christiansted beat Roveretto 5l in 17-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good); previously 38l 6th of 10 to Golden Rule in 3yo maiden hurdle at Navan (2m, heavy). Errigal 57l 11th of 17 to Roker Joker in novice handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, good to soft), previously awarded race after finishing a head 2nd to Royal Castle in 6-runner novice hurdle at Fakenham (2m 4f, soft). Lambrini Lad 27l 6th of 11 to Creler in 3yo novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, soft). Pagan hinted at ability in two middle-distance maidens when trained by Luca Cumani on the Flat. Travelling Clock 33l 6th of 16 to Roi De La Chasse in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good) with Make It So (3lb better off) pulled up.

The ex-Irish CHRISTIANSTED won a shade cosily on his debut for Ferdy Murphy and can follow up

4.40 DOVE INGS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,960: 2m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

601 11113F YOUBETTERBELIEVEIT 130 (BF,F,G) (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 10-12-0 G Bradley
602 4P5-P3 KNOW-NO-NO 75 (F,G,S) (Whyte & Mackay Ltd) A Dickin 10-11-12 ... B Powell 105
603 -F3PP2 DENICHEUR 54 (G) (Mr W Morrell) Mrs L Taylor 8-11-6 ... T J Murphy 123
604 152F4F FLAMING MIRACLE 26 (B,F,G,S) (J Bradbury) G Barnett 9-11-3 ... R Widger (5) 117
605 2FSF11 COUNT KARMUSKI 19 (D,G,S) (P Atkinson) F Murphy 7-11-2 ... A Maguire 120
606 112-F3 HARFDECENT 27 (D,F,S) (A Knowles) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-12 ... P Niven 116
607 125224 LAST TRY 69 (F,G,S) (H Harenberg) B Rothwell 8-10-11 ... R Supple 119
608 U22P-P MR FUDGE 70 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Robinson) M Sowersby 12-10-5 ... M H Naughton (5) —
609 2-0P60 DESERT BRAVE 70 (CD,G,S) (T & B Beeson) Mrs S Smith 9-10-0 R Wilkinson (5) 122
610 225420 JASON'S BOY 8 (B,D,F,G,S) (W Jones) J Bradley 9-10-0 ... R Johnson 116
611 -0P002 ANOTHER RED 8 (F,S) (W Raw) W Raw 11-10-0 ... N Horrocks (5) 85

Long handicap: Desert Brave 9-9, Jason's Boy 9-7, Another Red 9-1.

BETTING: 7-2 Harfdecent, 9-2 Count Karmuski, 6-1 Jason's Boy, 7-1 Know-No-No, Last Try, 8-1 Another Red, 10-1 Youbetterbelieveit, Flaming Miracle, 16-1 others.

1998: LOBSTER COTTAGE 10-12-0 Mr R Wakley (9-2) K Bailey 7 ran

Youbetterbelieveit fell in handicap chase at Stratford (2m 1f 110yd, good); previously 23l 3rd of 6 to Bluagale in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). Know-No-No 19l 3rd of 10 to Smolensk in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Denicheur beaten a distance 2nd of 5 to Shining Light in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Flaming Miracle fell in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft); previously 19l 4th of 5 to Nearly An Eye in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m, soft). Count Karmuski beat Mister Glory 4l in 8-runner handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good), previously beat Damza 1¼l in 5-runner handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Harfdecent 11l 3rd of 5 to O My Love in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Last Try 6¼l 4th of 7 to Damza in handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good) with Count Karmuski (10lb worse off) fell; previously ½l 2nd of 13 to Damza in handicap chase at Catterick (3m, good to firm). Desert Brave 33l 7th of 17 to La Riviera in handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good) with Mr Fudge (2lb better off) pulled up and Another Red (3lb worse off) pulled up. Jason's Boy 12l 7th of 16 to Cool Spot in handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good). Another Red ½l 2nd of 10 to Balleswhidden in handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 110yd, good).

KNOW-NO-NO, best on a sound surface, ran well here latest and should have conditions to suit

5.10 JACK SNIPE MARES ONLY INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,515: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

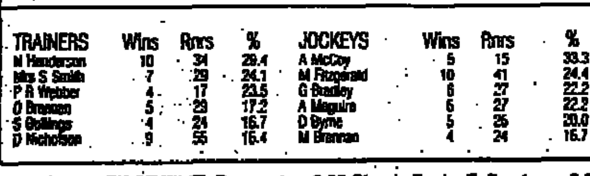
1 11 BALLET-K 23 (D,F,S) (Gallagher Enterprises Ltd) J Neville 5-11-12 ... — 78
2 BALABOLEY (J Hamilton) B Rothwell 5-11-2 ... R Supple —
3 BALLYWOODEN (J Norton) J Norton 5-11-2 ... C Rafter (7) —
4 BRATHAY MAJIC (C Castle) D Eddy 5-11-2 ... M A Fitzgerald —
5 0 FESTIVAL LEADER 88 (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 5-11-2 ... P Holley 55
6 0- GENTLY RIDDEN 338 (Mrs J Powell) P R Webber 6-11-2 ... J A McCarthy 42
7 GOODTHYNE LADY (R Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-2 ... R Dunwoody —
8 0 MACHOUSE LADY 57 (J McElwaine) F Murphy 5-11-2 ... Mr J P McNamara (5) —
9 0- MINIHARNA 385 (Mrs A Robinson) J Wharton 6-11-2 ... Michael Brennan 31
10 0 PINOULI 78 (Mrs D Haine) Mrs D Haine 5-11-2 ... G Tormey 56
11 3P0- SUPERLEAGUE SAINTS 286 (Saints Partnership) J Pearce 6-11-2 ... A Maguire
12 3- WYNYARD DANCER 275 (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-2 ... P Niven 47
13 CARDINAL COLOUR (Mrs N Macauley) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-6 ... D Gallagher —
14 0 GRAYROSE HIP 12 (Dr G Thelwall Jones) A Bailey 4-10-6 ... S Wynne —
15 HARRIET EMILY (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 4-10-6 ... T J Murphy —
16 0 RIVIERE 12 (R Fairs) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-6 ... M H Naughton (5) 42
17 0 TYNEMINE 48 (Tyne Tube Services Ltd) B Ellison 4-10-6 ... Mr J Crowley (5) 46
18 4 VILLIAN 34 (Mrs H Mobley) Mrs H Mobley 4-10-6 ... O McPhail (5) 80

BETTING: 5-2 Ballet-K, 4-1 Wynyard Dancer, 5-1 Brathay Majic, Goodthyne Lady, 8-1 Riviere, 10-1 Villian, 16-1 Machouse Lady, 20-1 others.

1998: CATHEDRAL BELLE 4-10-6 G Lee (7-2) Mrs M Reveley 17 ran

Ballet-K beat Early Daisy 1l in 3-runner mares national hunt flat at Ayr (2m, soft); previously beat Dragon Lord 3l in 15-runner national hunt flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good to firm). Festival Leader 33l 8th of 22 to Eddy's Son in national hunt flat race at Warwick (2m, soft). Goodthyne Lady Good Thyne filly out of a lightly-raced mare. Machouse Lady 23l 7th of 10 to Native Affair in national hunt flat race at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm). Miniharna 32l 9th of 17 to Cathedral Belle in mares national hunt flat at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm). Superleague Saints 22l 14th of 17 to Little Fencote in maiden nat hunt flat at Perth (2m 110yd, good to firm). Wynyard Dancer 3l 3rd of 7 to Waterlaw in national hunt flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). Riviere 15l 7th of 16 to Elegant City in mares national hunt flat at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft) with Grayrose Hip (levels) 32l 11th. Tynemine 17l 7th of 12 to Barton Bill in national hunt flat race at Catterick (2m, soft). Villian 7½l 4th of 18 to Count Camptoni in national hunt flat race at Ludlow (2m, soft).

WYNYARD DANCER is from a good family and shaped with promise last season on her debut



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
N Henderson	10	34	29.4	A McCoy	5	15	33.3
Mrs S Smith	7	29	24.1	M Fitzgerald	10	41	24.4
P R Webber	4	17	23.5	G Bradley	6	27	22.2
O Brennan	5	29	17.2	A Maguire	6	27	22.2
S Gollings	4	24	16.7	D Byrne	5	25	20.0
D Nicholson	9	55	16.4	M Brennan	4	24	16.7

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 3.05 Classic Eagle. Folkestone: 2.20 Swan Street, Charlie Chang. 3.55 Keen Bid. Wolverhampton: 2.10 Sky Storm. 4.15 Rich Ballerina.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
[illegible]								

http://www.skiclub.co.uk

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER
2.20 Summer Flower. 2.50 Hot To Trot. 3.25 First Instance. 3.55 What A Fuss. 4.25 Sunczech. 5.00 Monks Soham.

Carl Evans: 4.25 Hall's Mill.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.20 STANFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,660: 2m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 1240 INCLINATION 19 (CD,S) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-10 ... Mr S Stronge (7) 73
2 PP-P VENDOON 60 (S) P Bowen 9-11-7 ... W Marston —
3 253P SUMMER FLOWER 7 (D,F,S) Miss Z Davison 9-11-4 ... Mr A Irvine (7) 78
4 066- BLAZE OF OAK 578 P Eccles 8-11-2 ... Miss V Roberts (7) —
5 -5F6 SWAN STREET 8 (B) E L James 8-11-2 ... J R Kavanagh 13
6 0R05 SPRINTFAYRE 8 (F,G,S) J Long 11-11-2 ... N Williamson 64
7 30F0 ADILOV 4 (F,S) J Bridger 7-11-0 ... M Batchelor (5) 70
8 P-P0 KING'S GOLD 37 Mrs L Richards 9-10-11 ... C Llewellyn —
9 -030 WONDERBOY 6 J R Poulton 5-10-6 ... Edgar Byrne (7) 77
10 P-60 CHARLIE CHANG 4F (B) B Llewellyn 6-10-4 Mr R Forristal (5) 86
11 P-PP AVONCLIFF 49 P Hayward 6-10-4 ... J Goldstein (3) —
12 -002 GOLDEN FAWN 19 M Haynes 6-10-3 ... J Culloty 76
13 -500 INCHYDONEY BOY 117 Miss Z Davison 10-10-1 ... D O'Sullivan (7)
14 0FP6 LILLY THE FILLY 19 Mrs B Waring 8-10-0 ... E Byrne 54

3-1 Golden Fawn, 5-1 Inclination, 11-2 Summer Flower, Wonderboy, 7-1 Charlie Chang, 10-1 Adilov, 12-1 Swan Street, Sprintfayre, 16-1 others.

2.50 LYMPNE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,387: 2m 6f 110yd) (10)

1 -211 SKIPCARL 44 (D,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-11 ... Mr J G Sheehan (7) 99
2 21 HOT TO TROT 89 (G) K Bailey 6-11-10 ... N Williamson
3 /P-0 EDITORIAL 44 R Rowe 7-11-4 ... C Maude 42
4 -PPP MAGIC LAMP 35 (F) Miss Z Davison 9-11-4 ... Mr A Irvine (7) —
5 0-PP NORMANTHESTRAWMAN 22 P Shakespeare 6-11-4 ... J R Kavanagh —
6 00/ SILVER TREASURE 893 Mrs M Jones 8-11-4 ... W Marston —
7 5/40 AMBROSIA 26 G Hubbard 6-10-13 ... R Thornton 19
8 F DAISY RIVER 28 F Gray 7-10-13 ... M Batchelor (5) —
9 1-6F KELLYS CONQUEST 28 (S) J Mullins 6-10-13 ... A Thornton 78
10 0/00 PANTO QUEEN 22 J King 8-10-13 ... L Cummins (3) —

4-9 Hot To Trot, 3-1 Skipcarl, 6-1 Kellys Conquest, 20-1 Ambrosia, 33-1 Editorial, 50-1 Daisy River, 66-1 Panto Queen, 100-1 others.

3.25 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY (HANDICAP CHASE) (£2,406: 2m) (9)

1 4332 QUANGO 20 (D,G,S) C Mann 7-11-13 ... Mr N Fehily (7)
2 -UU6 NO PATTERN 78 (B,D,F,S) G L Moore 7-11-12 ... P Hide —
3 0-66 IRISH FROLIC 97 (BF,G,S) R Rowe 7-11-4 ... C Maude —
4 2-45 HEAD FOR HEAVEN 40 (BF,S) R Hoad 9-11-1 ... J Culloty 89
5 2-05 SUPER MAC 71 P Hedger 6-11-1 ... C Llewellyn —
6 5314 FIRST INSTANCE 40 (BF,C,G,S) D Grissell 9-10-12 ... N Williamson 85
7 3U6U SMART GUY 2 Mrs L Jewell 7-10-0 ... D Leahy 101
8 236F CALVARO 72 J Gifford 8-10-0 ... L Aspell 95
9 4540 TEL E THON 95 (V,F,G) Miss C Caine 12-10-0 ... C Webb 94

11-4 Quango, 3-1 First Instance, 4-1 Calvaro, 9-2 Head For Heaven, 12-1 Irish Frolic, Super Mac, 16-1 No Pattern, Tel E Thon, 25-1 Smart Guy

3.55 DAVID BENGE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,107: 2m 1f 110yd) (16)

1 -026 KERRY'S OATS 16 P Hedger 7-11-12 ... M Richards 70
2 -0P1 WHAT A FUSS 9 (D,G) Miss H Knight 6-11-12 (7ex) ... L Cummins (3)
3 3-44 IRISH OPTION 100 J Gifford 6-11-11 ... P Hide 58
4 36/0 FAIRY KNIGHT 71 K Bailey 7-11-9 ... Edgar Byrne (7) 22
5 0030 SECOND HELPING 101 J R Best 5-11-6 ... J J Best (7) 37
6 4151 PARK ROYAL 19 (S) P Butler 4-11-0 ... J Goldstein (3) 83
7 0453 BERKELEY SQUARE 40 (B) C Weedon 4-10-11 ... N Williamson 68
8 P463 JOHDAMAR 51 (BF) Derrick Morris 7-10-8 M Batchelor (5) 62
9 4335 BRONHALLOW 12 (B) Mrs B Waring 6-10-7 ... E Byrne 75
10 544- SIFWA 271F D O'Brien 5-10-6 ... J Culloty 59
11 F6P- MR LEROI 292 Mrs A Perrett 6-10-4 ... R Thornton 26
12 35P0 DAUGHTER IN LAW 77 Miss C Caroe 6-10-4 ... D Leahy 62
13 0/0P KEEN BID 46 (B) Mrs L Richards 8-10-2 ... C Llewellyn —
14 006 MISCONDUCT 29 Mrs M Jones 5-10-0 ... W Marston 84
15 0P0 FRAME OF MIND 35F (B) F Jordan 4-10-0 ... Mr R Forristal (5) 28
16 U0P DETACHMENT 100 Miss Z Davison 6-10-0 ... C Maude 57

7-2 What A Fuss, 5-1 Irish Option, 11-2 Berkeley Square, 7-1 Park Royal, 8-1 Kerry's Oats, Misconduct, 10-1 Fairy Knight, 12-1 Johdamar, 14-1 others

4.25 TENTERDEN MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (£1,096: 2m 5f) (11)

1 PS-2 A RIGHT SET TWO 39P (BF,G) Ms Melanie Dover 7-12-8 ... Mr N King (7) —
2 0-P BESIDE HIMSELF 25P N Lampard 6-12-8 ... Mr D Keane (7) —
3 3-01 CASTLE ARROW 18P (F,G) Mrs B Stronge 6-12-8 ... Mr S Stronge (3) —
4 UU-1 HALL'S MILL 38P (G,S) Miss S Waugh 10-12-8 ... Mr A Charles-Jones (3) —
5 PP-P PARK RIDGE 25P N Lampard 7-12-8 ... Mr B Kendellen (7) —
6 U34- PHANTOM SLIPPER 298P (BF) Mrs S Warr 9-12-8 ... Mr A Warr (7) —
7 1/3- SALTY SNACKS 403P (F) M J Gingell 10-12-8 ... Mr M Gingell (7) —
8 P/PP SIT TIGHT 25P (F) Miss S Pilkington 10-12-8 ... Mr S Morris (7) —
9 3-P2 TOMCAPPAGH 18P (BF,G) Mrs S Wall 8-12-8 ... Mr C Gordon (7)
10 1-U2 TRUE CHIMES 16P (G) H Owen 8-12-8 ... Mr J Owen (7) —
11 /2-1 SUNCZECH 18P (G) Mrs D Grissell 9-12-3 ... Mr P Hacking —

11-4 Hall's Mill, 7-2 A Right Set Two, Tomcappagh, 9-2 Sunczech, 5-1 Castle Arrow, 12-1 True Chimes, 33-1 Phantom Slipper, Salty Snacks, 50-1 others.

5.00 FOLKESTONE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,265: 2m 6f 110yd) (8)

1 1225 BE MY MOT 42 (CD,G,S) D Grissell 7-11-10 ... N Williamson 101
2 216P SALEEL 18 (CD,S) Mrs L Wadham 7-11-6 ... Mr R Forristal (5) 100
3 3316 MILLMOUNT 9 (B,CD,G,S) T McGovern 9-11-0 ... X Aizpuru (3) 106
4 -245 KENTFORD TINA 46 (G) J Mullins 8-10-11 ... A Bates (3)
5 2136 PENINSULA BOY 12 (G) P Bowen 6-10-10 ... W Marston 91
6 P603 MONKS SOHAM 27 (G,S) G Hubbard 11-10-6 L Barber (7) 111
7 -001 EQUITY'S DARLING 19 (B,S) D O'Brien 7-10-0 ... J Culloty 104
8 0424 FOUNTAIN BID 9 (BF,G) R Dean 7-10-0 ... Mr N Fehily (7) 106

3-1 Be My Mot, 7-2 Millmount, 6-1 Equity's Darling, 7-1 Saleel, Monks Soham, Fountain Bid, 8-1 Kentford Tina, 10-1 Peninsula Boy

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T McGovern, 4 winners from 19 runners, 21.1%; D Grissell, 11 from 61, 18.0%; J Gifford, 10 from 62, 16.1%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: X Aizpuru, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%; R Forristal, 3 from 8, 37.5%; N Williamson, 13 from 44, 29.5%; R Thornton, 4 from 25, 16.0%; P Hide, 7 from 56, 12.5%; J Kavanagh, 7 from 57, 12.3%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
2.10 Golconda. 2.40 C-Harry. 3.15 China Castle. 3.45 Daawe. 4.15 Joseph's Wine. 4.50 High Noon.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.10 ROTTWEILER MAIDEN STAKES (£2,759: 7f) (8 runners)

1 6/ BROUGHTONS MILL 585 W Musson 4-9-12 ... R Cochrane 8
2 CANTABELLA H Collingridge 4-9-7 ... G Faulkner (3) 3
3 00-0 EFFANDEMM 4 A Bailey 3-8-9 ... A Mackay 7
4 00- SKY STORM 125 (B) B Meehan 3-8-9 ... G Hannon (7) 2
5 2662 STATE WIND 14 (B) N Littmoden 3-8-9 ... T G McLaughlin 6
6 60 FRENCH SPICE 12 M Prescott 3-8-4 ... T Sprake 1
7 30-2 GOLCONDA 13 (BF) M Bell 3-8-4 ... M Fenton 5
8 340- SEA-BELLE 162 K Bell 3-8-4 ... D Sweeney 4

4-6 Golconda, 11-2 French Spice, 6-1 State Wind, 7-1 Sea-Belle, 16-1 Broughtons Mill, 20-1 Cantabella, 33-1 Effandemm, Sky Storm.

2.40 PARTRIDGE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,097: 7f) (10)

1 -666 STATE OF CAUTION 15 (B,CD) K Burke 6-9-5 ... D Sweeney 7
2 445- MR PARADISE 64 (D,F,S) W Muir 5-9-2 ... Martin Dwyer 9
3 0-22 TROJAN HERO 9 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-8-13 ... A Culhane 1
4 1215 C-HARRY 7 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-8-12 ... R Cochrane 3
5 30-0 FORCING BID 47 (E,C) John Berry 5-8-12 ... M Tebbutt 4
6 1254 POLAR MIST 18 (V,C) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-11 ... P McCabe 5
7 0311 ELITE HOPE 9 (CD,G) N Tinkler 7-8-10 ... G Carter 6
8 -660 DETROIT CITY 26 (D,G,S) B Rothwell 4-8-8 ... M Fenton 10
9 020/ RAWI 11J (B,D,F) J Charlton 6-8-7 ... R FitzPatrick (5) 2
10 1200 FAYM 4 (BF,CD) Miss S Wilton 5-8-3 ... C Carver (5) 8

3-1 C-Harry, 4-1 Trojan Hero, 5-1 Elite Hope, 6-1 Mr Paradise, 7-1 Polar Mist, 10-1 Forcing Bid, Faym, 12-1 others.

3.15 WOODCOCK HANDICAP (£6,068: 1m 4f) (6)

1 1131 CHINA CASTLE 21 (CD) P Haslam 6-10-0 ... P Goode (5) 4
2 0615 WHITE PLAINS 8 (D,F,S) K Burke 6-9-6 ... N Callan (5) 3
3 1052 FAILED TO HIT 14 (B,CD,F) N Littmoden 6-8-11 ... J Tate 2
4 5534 NOUKARI 7 (D) P Evans 6-8-2 ... Martin Dwyer 5
5 -551 GREEN BOPPER 9 (C,G) G Woodward 6-7-13 (6ex) ... F Norton 6
6 4532 SWIFT 9 (C,F,G) M Polglase 5-7-11 ... P Fessey 1

6-4 China Castle, 5-2 White Plains, 7-1 Failed To Hit, Swift, 8-1 Green Bopper, Noukari.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Woodward, 4 winners from 14 runners, 28.6%; M Bell, 18 from 76, 23.7%; M Prescott, 26 from 114, 22.8%; M Johnston, 47 from 242, 19.4%; J Pearce, 18 from 99, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: N Callan, 4 winners from 18 rides, 22.2%; R Cochrane, 19 from 103, 18.4%; G Faulkner, 11 from 70, 15.7%; T McLaughlin, 25 from 171, 14.6%; D Sweeney, 18 from 125, 14.4%.

3.45 JAY HANDICAP (£6,039: 5f) (7)

1 021- PRIMO LARA 65 (F,G) P Harris 7-10-0 ... P Goode (5) 7
2 2434 CLASSY CLEO 7 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 4-9-11 ... C Cogan (7) 6
3 4-44 MANGUS 43 (CD,F) K Cunningham-Brown 5-8-4 ... T Sprake 1
4 00-5 DAAWE 18 (B,D,F,G,S) J Glover 8-8-3 ... D Sweeney 5
5 5224 PRIDE OF BRIXTON 18 (BF,CD,G,S) A Reid 6-8-0 A Daly (3) 3
6 2111 SOTONIAN 6 (CD) P Felgate 6-7-10 (6ex) ... A Nicholls (5) 2
7 0-02 PALACEGATE JACK 25 (B,D,G,S) J Berry 8-7-10 ... P Fessey 4

2-1 Sotonian, 5-1 Primo Lara, Mangus, 6-1 Palacegate Jack, 7-1 Classy Cleo, Daawe, 10-1 Pride Of Brixton

4.15 PHEASANT SELLING STAKES (£1,898: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 1540 BURNING 8 (B,CD,F) N Littmoden 7-9-13 ... T G McLaughlin 9
2 0-21 JOSEPH'S WINE 11 (B,D,F,G) J Wharton 10-9-13 ... R Cochrane 4
3 0145 KINGCHIP BOY 9 (D,F,G) M Ryan 10-9-13 ... P McCabe 6
4 00-0 FIGHTER SQUADRON 27 (B,F,G,S) H Peacock 10-9-8 ... T Sprake 11
5 0000 NUIT D'OR 4 (CD) M Wanng 4-9-8 ... R Price 1
6 0-55 SANTONE 34 R Hannon 4-9-8 ... Dane O'Neill 10
7 4300 AMINGTON GIRL 11 (B,D,G) P Evans 4-9-3 ... S Whitworth 3
8 00-0 CHASKA 18 (F) A Bailey 4-9-3 ... J Bosley (7) 7
9 -005 FLYING TOUCH 21 N Littmoden 4-9-3 ... J Tate 12
10 -043 STRAVSEA 12 B Baugh 4-9-3 ... A Culhane 8
11 -563 LADY CAROLINE 4 M Johnston 3-8-3 ... J Fanning 13
12 01-2 RICH BALLERINA 9 (B,BF) D Carroll 3-8-3 ... D Sweeney 2
13 400- VENTURE ISLAND 161 W Musson 3-7-12 ... F Norton 5

9-4 Rich Ballerina, 7-2 Lady Caroline, 6-1 Kingchip Boy, 8-1 Joseph's Wine, 10-1 Stravsea, 12-1 Burning, Santone, 14-1 others.

4.50 LIFE BEGINS AT 40 HANDICAP (£3,649: 1m 1f 79yd) (9)

1 2416 SUALTACH 4 (CD,F,S) R Hollinshead 6-10-0 ... R Cochrane 9
2 0-05 DIAMOND FLAME 21 (CD) P Harris 5-9-9 ... P Goode (5) 6
3 3246 KING PRIAM 16 (B,G) M Polglase 4-8-11 ... T G McLaughlin 4
4 300- SEA SPOUSE 166 (S) M Blanshard 8-8-10 ... Dale Gibson 8
5 2100 ARC 12 (C) F Jordan 5-8-7 ... A Culhane 2
6 -563 PROSPECTOR'S COVE 32 (F,G,S) J Pearce 6-8-5 ... R Price 7
7 4112 HIGH NOON 12 (BF,CD) N Littmoden 4-8-2 ... J Tate 3
8 1-43 SARATOGA RED 16 (D,S) E Alston 5-8-2 ... L Charnock 1
9 4114 VAN GURP 1 (BF,G) K Burke 6-7-10 (6ex) ... F Norton 5

4-1 Van Gurp, 11-2 King Priam, 6-1 Diamond Flame, Prospector's Cove, High Noon, 7-1 Sualtach, 8-1 Saratoga Red, 10-1 others.

Fitzgerald at Kempton

MICK FITZGERALD will ride at Kempton on Saturday rather than partner Fiddling The Facts in the Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock. Nicky Henderson is planning to run Cheltenham Festival fancies Makounji and Katarino at Kempton, with Richard Johnson taking over on Fiddling The Facts.

☐ Youlneverwalkalone, a leading Irish hope for Cheltenham, has met with a setback and will miss the Festival Bumper.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: good

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Sharbadarid** (D J Burchell, 14-1); 2, Little Miss Lucy (50-1); 3, True Vision (11-2). Rusk (fell) 11-10 fav. 14 ran. 7l, 2l. J Price. Tote: £13.20; £2.20, £3.60, £1.90. DF: £85.70. CSF: £467.27.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, **Carlingford Gale** (Mr K R O'Ryan, 3-1 fav); 2, Moorland Highflyer (4-1); 3, Lay It Off (12-1). 12 ran. 10l, 5l. T George. Tote: £4.10; £2.30, £1.80, £2.90. DF: £10.40. CSF: £13.39. Tricast: £110.30.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, **Circus Star** (R Johnson, 2-1 fav); 2, Charming Girl (9-2); 3, Caballus (20-1). 11 ran. 4l, 5l. D Nicholson. Tote: £3.70; £1.70, £1.30, £6.30. DF: £7.40. CSF: £9.74.

3.30 (3m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, **Mister Generosity** (N Williamson, 11-2 jt-fav); 2, Hoodwinker (25-1); 3, Juitara (16-1); 4, Lady of Gortmerron (9-1). Snow Board 11-2 jt-fav. 18 ran. 2½l, 5l. C Weedon. Tote: £4.80; £1.70, £5.00, £4.20, £1.60. DF: £79.50. CSF: £130.43. Tricast: £1,897.41.

4.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Seabrook Lad** (J A McCarthy, 16-1); 2, Machalini (14-1); 3, Symphony's Son (5-1). Rollcall 2-1 fav. 15 ran. NR: Rashskin. 2l, ¾l. C Morlock. Tote: £17.40; £3.80, £2.90, £2.30. DF: £67.60. CSF: £190.35. Tricast: £1,185.24.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, **In Question** (N Williamson, 5-2); 2, Basman (7-1); 3, Interdream (25-1). Fern's Governor 8-11 fav. 15 ran. 12l, 14l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £4.00; £1.80, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £18.70. CSF: £17.49.

5.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Ballysicyos** (T J Murphy, 10-1); 2, Nemisto (12-1); 3, Long Room Lady (25-1). Don Fayruz (6th) 2-1 fav. 15 ran. 17l, sh hd. M Pipe. Tote: £14.80; £4.80, £2.50, £3.20. DF: £49.80. CSF: £106.78.

Placepot: £1,259.30.

Quadpot: £47.30.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MISCONDUCT (3.55 Folkestone)

The Merrita Jones yard has struck form recently and the five-year-old looks on a lenient mark for her handicap debut over hurdles.

Next best: Harfdecent (4.40 Doncaster)

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.10 (1m 4f) 1, **Banbury** (P Clarke, 5-2); 2, Dancing Rio (5-1); 3, Waasef (50-1). Van Gurp (4th) evens fav. 6 ran. 3l, sh hd. C Dwyer. Tote: £4.80; £1.40, £2.80. DF: £9.90. CSF: £14.52.

2.40 (7f) 1, **Garnock Valley** (G Carter, 7-2); 2, Pageboy (5-1); 3, Statistician (12-1). Scotland Bay 3-1 fav. 10 ran. 1l, nk. J Berry. Tote: £3.50; £1.50, £2.90, £2.20. DF: £9.40. CSF: £20.55.

3.10 (1m 2f) 1, **Zidac** (A Clark, 8-1); 2, Hawksbill Henry (evens fav); 3, Jubilee Scholar (9-2). 7 ran. Nk, 2l. P Makin. Tote: £12.10; £5.80, £1.10. DF: £8.00. CSF: £15.72.

3.40 (1m 4f) 1, **Hibernate** (D Sweeney, 7-4); 2, Robellita (11-8 fav); 3, Mischief (4-1). 6 ran. 4l, 6l. K Burke. Tote: £3.20; £1.20, £1.30. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.28.

4.10 (6f) 1, **Noble Water** (R Brisland, 14-1); 2, Miss Bananas (8-1); 3, Sure To Dream (9-2). Another Nightmare 4-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Scurrilous. ¾l, 1¼l. J Bridger. Tote: £13.90; £2.70, £2.50, £2.70. DF: £63.70. CSF: £113.76. Tricast: £553.17.

4.40 (1m) 1, **Baron de Pichon** (J Weaver, 7-2); 2, Lincoln Dean (9-2); 3, Thomas Henry (11-1). Bratby (6th) 9-4 fav. 6 ran. 3l, 4l. N Littmoden. Tote: £2.70; £2.10, £3.10. DF: £12.80. CSF: £17.06.

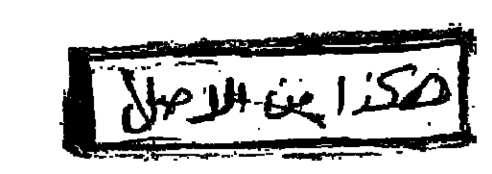
Placepot: £140.80.

Quadpot: £15.20.

☐ **Sedgefield abandoned — frost.**

☐ John Bridger, the Liphook trainer, ended a 120-day spell without a winner when Noble Water took the Home Stud 'Fraam' Fillies' Handicap by threequarters of a length at Lingfield Park yesterday.





FOOTBALL

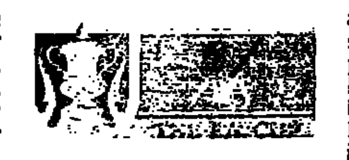
Rovers forced to dig deep for fresh reserves

By Stephen Wood

IF BLACKBURN Rovers were indeed "running on empty" last weekend, as Brian Kidd, their manager, suggested, there appears to be little hope *for them* against Newcastle United tonight. The Ewood Park club's resources have been stretched to the limit and the FA Cup fifth-round replay, for the right to meet Everton in the quarter-finals, comes only four days after their worst defeat of the season.

The law of diminishing returns has gripped Blackburn since Kidd took over as manager. He may have indulged himself in the transfer market, to the tune of £15 million, but his options seem to have been reduced with every match. Jason McAteer and Matt Jansen, *automatic selections in the FA* Carling Premiership, are ineligible for the Cup, but their absence is the tip of the iceberg.

Chris Sutton and Stephane Henchoz are also missing



tonight, because of injury. Sutton may not need an operation on the foot problem that has troubled him all season, but it is enough to keep him on the sidelines for a further fortnight in what, he accepts, has become his worst season. His enforced inactivity could also affect his chances of earning an England call-up under Kevin Keegan.

Henchoz may need an operation on knee ligaments that he twisted against Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday. Jeff Kenna, the Ireland full back, *is doubtful* and Flitcroft, McKinlay, Johnson and Gallacher are long-term casualties as the club tries to bounce back from the 4-1 drubbing by Wednesday.

Kidd was typically stoical about his injury-ravaged squad yesterday. "There's no point in bellyaching about it," he said. "The players have been playing while they've been hurting and that's what it's going to be like until the end of the season."

Newcastle's most significant worry concerned Alan Shearer, who was left behind when the squad travelled yesterday because of flu but who Ruud Gullit, the manager, hopes will be able to join his teammates today.

Darren Peacock, the Blackburn defender who used to be a team-mate of Shearer's at Newcastle, expects to be up against the England captain — and knows the key to triumph for a reshuffled defence will be keeping him as quiet as in the *first match, which ended* 0-0. Peacock dismisses suggestions that Shearer has lost any of his threat. "He is still the same player as far as I'm concerned," Peacock said. "He is powerful and strong and, if you give him a chance, he'll score."

Huddersfield Town, of the Nationwide League first division, are hoping that the reunion of Marcus Stewart and Wayne Allison will improve their chances of knocking out Derby County in another fifth-round replay at Pride Park.

The pair have scored 32 goals this season, and one of those was Stewart's equaliser in the 2-2 draw against Derby at the McAlpine Stadium 11 days ago. Allison was absent from that match because of the death of his father but the player returns tonight.

Derby, who are looking to spend a *slice* of their transfer budget as soon as possible, welcome back Horacio Carbonari and Francesco Baiano after a rest. Paolo Wanchope, the striker, could be recalled at the expense of Deon Burton, while Jacob Laursen is suspended.

A substandard performance saw Derby lose 2-0 at home to Charlton Athletic in the Premiership last weekend and Jim Smith, the manager, said: "We can't afford a repeat of that against Huddersfield."

Ronaldo struggles to regain fitness

RONALDO may miss Internazionale's European Cup quarter-final, first-leg game against Manchester United at Old Trafford next Wednesday. The Brazil striker has been dogged by a knee injury all season and has played only six full matches for the Uefa Cup holders. He has missed Inter's past seven games and only resumed training on Monday after weeks working out in the gym and swimming pool.

"He is showing clear signs of improvement, but it won't be easy for the match against Manchester United," Massimo Moratti, president of Inter, said yesterday in Milan. "He only got back on to a *pitch yesterday.*"

Inter have adopted a policy of using Ronaldo only in significant matches this season. He played the full 90 minutes in his club's Serie A fixtures against Juventus and Parma, and also in the 3-1 victory over Real Madrid, the European champions, in November.

Some of Ronaldo's Brazilian counterparts at Palmeiras were fuming yesterday after Luiz Felipe Scolari, their coach, claimed they were too fat and gave details of their weight to the media to prove it. Scolari was unrepentant and said that he would continue issuing weight bulletins until players trimmed down.

"There are certain matters which don't need to be made public," Zinho, team captain and a member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning team, who was registered as being more than 2lb overweight, said. *Paulo Nunes, a striker* listed as being more than 6lb too heavy, was also upset. "This didn't need to happen ... If I go out to a restaurant, everybody is going to start commenting."



AFP

Choi and Kim pose for photographs at Kimpo airport in Seoul before flying to London to link up with West Ham

West Ham disown Koreans

By Our Sports Staff

WEST HAM United yesterday insisted that rumours that they were to sign two South Korea internationals in a multimillion-pound deal were grossly exaggerated. The FA Carling Premiership club said that they were simply doing them a favour by allowing the two players to train with them.

West Ham were reported to have paid an Asian record transfer fee of £3 million for Choi Yong-Soo, South Korea's top striker, and a further £1 *million* for Kim Doh-Keun, a midfield player.

But Peter Storrie, the chief executive at Upton Park, said: "This is absolute nonsense. Harry Redknapp was approached by the players' representative and asked if he would allow the two players *to train with the club while* they were on a visit to London. Harry said yes and is simply doing them a favour — we have no interest in signing these players whatsoever. The players are paying their own expenses while they are over here."

The confusion arose after reports from Southeast Asia claimed that a deal had been completed. A spokesman for Choi's club, LG Cheetahs, who noted that Perugia, the Italian club, had paid £2 million for Hidetoshi Nakata, of Japan, said: "Choi's transfer money is the biggest in history for an Asian player."

To add weight to the story, Choi *had reportedly told* journalists: "I'm very pleased. This is a dream come true. I always wanted to play in Europe. I'm all the more pleased because I am going to Great Britain, homeland of football. I'll do my best, keeping in mind that South Korea *is going to co-host the 2002* World Cup."

Choi, 6ft tall and nicknamed The Eagle because of his speed and ability to read the game, was a key member of the South Korea squad at the World Cup finals in France last year. He scored seven goals in seven appearances in the Asian qualifying matches for France 98.

Meanwhile, Les Scheinflug, the Australia youth soccer coach, demanded yesterday that the England Under-16 side's 2-1 victory over Cyprus in a European championship qualifying match be overturned because they fielded an Australian player. England's second goal on Monday came from Jamie McMaster, 16, who grew up on the coast north of Sydney.

McMaster has been the subject of a tug-of-war between Soccer Australia and Leeds United. McMaster's family emigrated to Australia from *Scotland in 1977. He played* for Australia in an under-17 international against Japan in Adelaide last year. Scheinflug said: "He has not been cleared by the New South Wales Soccer Federation or by Soccer Australia. What right have they to play him?"

Peter Thorne, the general manager of the New South Wales Soccer Federation (NSWSF), said that McMaster had been given a provisional clearance by the Football Association through Fifa, the world governing body. However, Thorne stressed that the NSWSF had refused to clear him to play for England.

Thorne wants Fifa to develop a compensation package to protect Australian federations that invest heavily in players, only to see them opt to represent other countries.

Some Australian coaches and administrators contend that Leeds United, annoyed at losing Harry Kewell to Australia team duty, have entered an agreement with Westfields *High School, where McMaster* studied. They claim that under the deal the Sydney school directs to Leeds young players who are able to qualify for England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

Full house to cheer Keegan's first game

■ ENGLAND'S first game under Kevin Keegan is a sell-out. Tickets to see the European championship qualifying match against Poland at Wembley on March 27 were snapped up within 36 hours of going on sale. A capacity 75,000 will be packed into the national stadium, although the game was sold out before Keegan's appointment.

Martin Corrie, a Wembley spokesman, said that the demand for tickets had rivalled that for England's World Cup qualifying match against Italy two years ago but that new high-tech box-office facilities had enabled tickets to be sold more quickly.

■ Gareth Barry, the Aston Villa central defender, will celebrate his 18th birthday today by signing a five-year contract with the club. Barry agreed the deal, which will keep him at Villa Park until the summer of 2004, in December, but will today formally put pen to paper.

■ Alun Armstrong, the Middlesbrough striker, has had to delay his long-awaited comeback after injuring a hamstring in training. Armstrong has not played since sustaining a pre-season Achilles tendon injury and will now be out of action for another month.

■ Wales are considering an appeal against Uefa's decision not to allow them to switch the European *championship qualifying* match against Denmark on June 9 from Anfield to Ninian Park.

■ Colin Addison has been appointed manager of Scarborough, who are bottom of the Nationwide League third division. Addison, 58, has been given a contract until the end of next season.

■ Gabriel Amato, signed by Rangers from Real Mallorca last summer, could be on his way back to Spain. Atlético Madrid, who need cover for the injured strikers, Kiko and Fernando Correa, are considering a bid.

■ Andy Gray, the Nottingham Forest winger, has joined Preston North End on a month's loan, with a view to a permanent move.

SAILING

Cup funds hampering Britain

IT IS now beginning to look certain that Great Britain will be represented in the 2000 America's Cup, which begins in Auckland later this year (Edward Gorman writes). However, a continuing shortage *of funds in the Spirit of* Britain syndicate leaves in question the scale and quality of the challenge.

After a long and difficult search for significant commercial sponsorship backing, Professor Andrew Graves, the chairman of the Spirit of Britain, has decided to go ahead with building one boat while he continues to hunt down the necessary funds to ensure that it is properly campaigned when it reaches Auckland.

It is thought that a group of private backers together with commercial suppliers is *enabling one 82ft boat to be* built at Portland, Dorset, with a budget of around £1.5 million. Michael Humphreys, a spokesman for the syndicate that is led on the water by Lawrie Smith, said yesterday that Britain will definitely take part. "We have enough money *to make a challenge, but we* need more to challenge effectively," he said. This will be Britain's first appearance in an America's Cup for 12 years.

CRICKET: BOARD KEEPS ITS OPTIONS OPEN BY REINSTATING CAPTAIN FOR TWO MORE TESTS

Lara gets chance to make amends

By Ivo Tennant

IN APPOINTING Brian Lara captain for the first two Tests of West Indies' forthcoming series against Australia, the Board is giving him a chance to redeem himself after the shambolic tour of South Africa. The decision, reached after a two-day meeting in Antigua, would also have something to do with a lack of *suitable alternatives.*

It might, too, have been made for reasons of political expediency. The first Test of the four-match series, starting on March 5, is to be played at Port of Spain, Trinidad, Lara's home ground. The insularity that Sir Frank Worrell strove to overcome in the 1960s is apparent once more in the Caribbean: the appointment of a Jamaican or a Bajan may have led to strife on and off the pitch.

A year ago, Lara was leading West Indies to victory over England in his first series as their official captain. Since *then, his form has deteriora*ted, as, indeed, has his reputation as a captain. His tenure in charge of Warwickshire was not a success and there was little evident unity during the tour of South Africa, which West Indies lost 5-0. The players' revolt, which he initiated *before it began, did not reflect* well on him.

Assuming his eyesight has not deteriorated, as has been suggested, Lara's own form should return. As to his captaincy, he would be well advised to take more heed of the experience of Clive Lloyd, a marginalised figure as his tour manager in South Africa. He will, no doubt, spend some time on the golf course with the West Indian he respects above all others, Sir Garfield Sobers, who also had to cope with leading a side dependent on his own ability.

In England in 1969, when several exceptional players had retired or were past their best, he, too, struggled with the bat.

Owing to the geography of the West Indies, the captaincy has long been a tangled issue. Each island is a separate territory with its own government and culture. When Lara replaced Courtney Walsh, a Jamaican, as captain for the series against England last year, there were fears that demonstrations would take place during the first Test in Kingston. So the West Indies Board, under the presidency of Pat Rousseau, is giving Lara every chance of succeeding before his own kin in Trinidad. Fail there and in the cockpit of Sabina Park, the venue for the second Test, and there will be no shortage of vociferous cricket followers ready to tell him that Walsh or Jimmy Adams, another Jamaican, should have had the job instead.

As for inter-island rivalry, which is afflicting West Indies' unity once more, Lara will doubtless be reminded by Sobers of Worrell's attempts in his day to create "a comity of nations". West Indies' greatest captain wrote in 1966 that "the team has proved it is a working federal unit and the chambers of commerce, politicians and, indeed, all thinking West Indians see the necessity for regional co-operation."

West Indies were given a reminder of the tasks that lay ahead of them on the field in the weeks ahead yesterday when Australia bowled out the West Indies Board XI for 55 in Antigua. Adam Dale, the seam bowler, took seven for 24 as Australia established a *first-innings lead of 101.*

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.uk.cricket.org

Bulbeck's accuracy is the deciding factor

From John Stern in Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH (England Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 beat Canterbury Emerging Players by 110 runs

DESPITE falling at least 30 runs short of their desired total batting first, England Under-19 completed a comfortable and useful victory over Canterbury Emerging Players in their only one-day practice match before the limited overs series against New Zealand Under-19, which begins on Thursday.

Michael Gough, the captain, and Ian Flanagan, who made 93 for the second time on this tour, put on 158 for the first wicket in 28 overs, a partnership that ought to have been the foundation for a total in the region of 300.

England managed only 260 *for six, which, as it turned out,* was more than enough. Having started well and progressed to 106 for three in the 23rd over, Canterbury capitulated to 150 all out. Matt Bulbeck, the Somerset left-armer, took the vital wicket, having Marcel McKenzie caught in the *deep* by Marc Symington for 50.

Bulbeck, coming on as second change, took two for nine in an exceptionally accurate spell of seven overs.

England A ready for hard finale

From Thrasy Petropoulos in Johannesburg

THE ENGLAND A team have arrived in South Africa for the final leg of their winter tour. After the success of Zimbabwe, where both the international and limited-overs series were won convincingly, they are certain to come up against a higher standard of opposition. They will play two matches, the first against a province, Gauteng, at the Wanderers, beginning tomorrow, and then a five-day match against the President's XI.

When this A tour was originally conceived the intention had been to stage a fuller itinerary in South Africa with an additional, shorter visit to Zimbabwe. With West Indies involved in a five-Test series against South Africa, the *United Cricket Board (UCB)* were, however, unable to host a full A tour. Consequently, this visit is being funded completely by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Finances apart, the logistic difficulties the UCB encountered became apparent yesterday *when confusion emerged* over the venue for the match against the President's XI. Originally scheduled to be played in Cape Town, the recent success of Western Province has seen them reach second place in the domestic first-class league here and, *depending on the outcome of* their next match, they may claim home advantage in the final. In that instance, a new venue for the game — most likely Port Elizabeth — will have to be found.

Of more immediate concern will be the four-day encounter *against Gauteng, who have* rested Ken Rutherford, their captain, and former New Zealand skipper, and are likely to give opportunities to several coloured players in line with the UCB's initiative to increase the racial mix of the sport here.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Switzerland 69 England 82 (in Nyon)
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 68 Chicago 77; Cleveland 97 Philadelphia 106, Orlando 107 Sacramento 96, Denver 117 Los Angeles Lakers 113 (OT); Minnesota 95 San Antonio 89; Phoenix 101 Dallas 83, Utah 104 Los Angeles Clippers 89

CAMBRIDGE LENT RACES

MEN: Second division: Peterhouse bpd Sidney Sussex; St Catharine's bpd 1st and 3rd Trinity II, Caius II bpd Downing II, Christ's II bpd Corpus Christi; LMBC III bpd Queens' II; Jesus II bpd Churchill II. **Third division:** CCAT bpd Fitzwilliam II, Emmanuel II bpd Peterhouse II, Wolfson bpd Magdalene II; Robinson II bpd Downing III; Girton II bpd Hughes Hall; Jesus III bpd Corpus Christi II. **Fourth division:** Sidney Sussex II bpd Clare Hall, LMBC IV bpd Clare III, Caius III bpd Trinity Hall III; 1st and 3rd Trinity IV bpd Churchill III, St Catharine's III bpd St Edmund's. **Women: Second division:** Sidney Sussex bpd LMBC 2; King's bpd Emmanuel II, Robinson bpd Homerton; Wolfson bpd St Catharine's II; Darwin bpd Clare Hall. **Third division:** Queens' II bpd Trinity Hall II, Homerton II bpd Lucy Cavendish, Churchill II bpd Selwyn II, Pembroke II bpd Caius II; LMBC III bpd Darwin II.

CANOEING

NEW ZEALAND: World Wild Water Cup: Men: K1 class: 1, F Wohlers (Ger) 395pts; 2, R Portarollo (It) 381, 3, C Mercati (It) 368. **British placings:** 16, I Tordoff (Chester) 293; 22, P Kernon (Lancaster) 268. **C1 class:** 1, V Pannalo (It) 395, 2, M Spelti (It) 369, 3, B Horval (Slovenia) 363. **British placing:** 9, R Pumphrey (Shadwell) 328. **Women: K1 class:** 1, S Eichenberger (Switz) 386, 2, C Brohot (Ger) 381, 3, P Schätzer (Austria) 360, 4, M Fomusek (NZ) 352. **British placing:** 11, C Berry (Forth/Edinburgh) 318

CRICKET

Tour match

Canterbury Emerging Players v England Under-19

CHRISTCHURCH (England Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 beat Canterbury Emerging Players by 110 runs

ENGLAND UNDER-19

M A Gough b Harris	82
I N Flanagan c Barrett b Walker	93
R J Logan b Harris	1
M A Carberry not out	43
J K Maunders lbw b Walker	8
M P Bulbeck run out	3
G R Haywood c Walker b C Cornelius	14
J R J Feanck not out	2
Extras (lb 4, w 10)	14
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	260

R K J Dawson, M J Symington and M J A Whiley did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-158, 2-166, 3-188, 4-213, 5-218, 6-255

BOWLING: Walker 10-1-60-2; W Cornelius 10-0-49-0; Harris 10-0-48-2; C Cornelius 10-0-56-1; Barrett 10-0-53-0.

CANTERBURY EMERGING PLAYERS

S Gibson c Symington b Logan	18
R Preston b Logan	0
M McKenzie c Symington b Bulbeck	50
H James b Haywood	18
J Barrett run out	9
J Innes b Bulbeck	1
G Bromley lbw b Symington	10
C Cornelius b Feanck	0
P Rugg c Maunders b Feanck	3
T Harris not out	7
W Cornelius c Flanagan b Symington	12
Extras (lb 13, w 9)	22
Total (39.5 overs)	150

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-56, 3-92, 4-106, 5-108, 6-110, 7-115, 8-125, 9-132.

BOWLING: Logan 7-0-37-2; Whiley 3-0-27-0, Haywood 10-1-29-1; Bulbeck 7-3-9-2. Symington 6.5-1-15-2. Feanck 6-0-20-2

Umpires: J Busby and G Baxter.

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Postponed: Ross County v Brechin
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Semi-final draw: Taunton Town v Tiverton Town, Bedlington Terriers v Thame United.
□ *First legs to be played March 13, second legs March 20*

Monday's late results

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Lincoln City 1 Port Vale 2.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton 1 Barnet 1, Oxford 0 Bournemouth 1, Reading 0 Tottenham 0.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Sunderland 1 Leicester 1. **Second division:** Wrexham 3 Newcastle 3.

HOCKEY

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (at Oxford): Oxford University 0 Army 0

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 2 New Jersey 3; Washington 4 Toronto 3; Pittsburgh 4 Phoenix 1, St Louis 5 Los Angeles 1. Calgary 6 New York Rangers 2.

NORDIC SKIING

BISCHOFSHOFEN, Austria: World championships: K120 team jumping event: 1, Germany 988.9pts, 2, Japan 987; 3, Austria 905.5, 4, Finland 855.7; 5, Slovenia 782.3; 6, Norway 707.1

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3a (Hawaii to Yokohama): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) finished at 2.01pm GMT 21/2; 2, Chrysolite (T Hedges) finished at 5.48am GMT 22/2; 3, Serica (R Dean) awaiting finishing time; 4, Antiope (K Harris) awaiting finishing time, 5, Thermopylae *(M Tod) awaiting* finishing time; 6, Mermerus (B Sollars) 333 miles to finish; 7, Taeping (N Fleming) 870 miles to finish

SKIING

ARE, Sweden: Women: World Cup: Giant slalom: 1, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 2min 12.97sec, 2, A Wachter (Austria) 2:13.62; 3, A Flemmen (Nor) 2:14.80; 4, S Nef (Switz) 2:14.88, 5, A Ottosson (Swe) 2:15.10; 6, D Compagnoni (It) 2:15.16.

TENNIS

BATTERSEA PARK: Guardian Direct Cup: Singles: First round: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-3, 0-6, 7-6; R Krajicek (Holl) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4, 6-2; T Johansson (Swe) bt P Luxa (Cz) 6-2, 6-4; P Korda (Cz) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-3, 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-1, 1-6, 7-6; G Raoux (Fr) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-4, 6-3; N Kiefer (Ger) bt C Pioline (Fr) 5-7, 6-2, 7-5, D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt S Pescosolido (It) 6-3, 6-7, 6-2. **Doubles: First round:** T Henman (GB) and G Rusedski (GB) bt P Norval (SA) and K Ullyett (Zim) 7-6, 6-2, T Carbonell (Sp) and C Haggard (SA) bt P Nyborg (Swe) and P Vizner (Cz) 6-4, 6-3, J Eagle (Aus) and A Florent (Aus) bt W Black (Zim) and S Stolle (Aus) 6-7, 6-2, 7-6.
PARIS INDOOR OPEN: First round: A Cocheteux (Fr) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 6-3, 6-3; A-G Sidot (Fr) bt L Courtois (Bel) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; S Williams (US) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-1, 6-2.
OKLAHOMA CITY: SuperThrift Classic: First round: A Stevenson (US) bt M de Swardt (SA) 7-5, 7-6; T Panova (Russ) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2; K Brandi (US) bt M A Sanchez-Lorenzo (Sp) 7-6, 6-2, E Wagner (Ger) bt J Nejedly (Can) 6-4, 6-2; J Chi (US) bt A Frazier (US) 3-6, 7-6, 7-5; M Saeki (Japan) bt L McNeil (US) 7-5, 6-4.
ATP RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 3,695pts; 2, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3,637, 3, A Corretja (Sp) 3,250; 4, C Moyá (Sp) 3,234; 5, P Rafter (Aus) 3,169; 6, M Rios (Chile) 2,880; 7, T Henman (GB) 2,789; 8, A Agassi (US) 2,583; 9, R Krajicek (Holl) 2,386, 10, G Rusedski (GB) 2,253.



ATHLETICS

Ladejo set to take the money and run

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

THERE will be some prize-money, though not much, at stake today when Du'aine Ladejo runs his first 400 metres for Great Britain since the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. How Ladejo, the European indoor and outdoor champion who gave up both titles for life as a decathlete, wishes it was more.

Five years ago, Ladejo denied Roger Black a third successive European outdoor gold medal and, 18 months later, won a second successive continental indoor title. No longer, though, does he enjoy the annual £100,000-plus a year in endorsements, or the five-figure appearance fees.

Still striving for his breakthrough as a decathlete, Ladejo has no sponsor and draws nothing from lottery funding. He has debts but he is happy. "I am not claiming poverty," Ladejo said yesterday. "This is my choice and I love it. The decathlon has revived me."

In two years as a decathlete, Ladejo has made sound if unspectacular progress. He finished as the top Briton at the Commonwealth Games, in seventh, but is still more than 300 points short of 8,000, the benchmark of world class.

"Hopefully this year I will be able to put out some world-class performances in the decathlon," Ladejo said. So determined is he that, when he travels to Maebashi, Japan, for the 400 metres at the world indoor championships next week, he will maintain his training in other events.

Why, then, is Ladejo back running 400s, albeit temporarily? "I need the money," he said. "I would not be going to the world championships if there was no prize-money and no way would I be doing 400s. My focus is not so much on winning as on the $50,000."

Victory in the six-nations international in Genoa today would earn Ladejo just $1,000 but it all helps and he needs the race to sharpen for Maebashi. Even if he fails to finish in the prize-money in the individual race in Japan, the strength of the Britain relay team almost guarantees a deposit into his bank account.

TENNIS: CZECH DENOUNCES RUSEDSKI FOR COMMENTS ON HIS POSITIVE STEROID TEST

Drug issue continues to hound Korda

By Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent

A DIFFERENT sort of welcome awaited Petr Korda when he played at the Guardian Direct Cup 12 months ago. The Czech player arrived in London fresh from winning the Australian Open, his first grand-slam title, and hot on the trail of Pete Sampras's place at the top of the game.

Now Korda languishes at No 75 in the world rankings. The positive drugs test he submitted at Wimbledon seven months ago has besmirched his reputation. He is deep into the twilight of his career and his game is in tatters.

After escaping a ban when traces of nandrolone, an anabolic steroid, was found in his urine, Korda, 31, spoke of postponing his retirement to clear his name and finish with a flourish. There is no hint, no suggestion at all that he might recapture his former glories. He remains a slightly isolated figure, his furrowed features telling of a man on whose shoulders the doping problem has rested heavily. It has certainly hijacked his form post-Wimbledon — as evidenced by a string of first-round losses.

Given the cloud surrounding his participation, it is probably as well that he never did overhaul Sampras, a leader by example, both on and off the court. His silence on the issue would have been that much harder to bear.

As it is, the tennis community waits while the legal process runs its course. Perhaps Korda will then furnish the doubters with his account of how he came to test positive after his quarter-final defeat by Tim Henman.

However, it emerged yesterday that they may have to wait a little longer. Korda intimated that he might not be willing to speak at all. He escaped a mandatory one-year ban when, under the terms of the anti-doping programme, he stated that he did not knowingly take the offending steroid. He has since rebuffed all efforts to illicit a satisfactory explanation on the legal pretext that the International Tennis Federation continues to appeal against the ruling.

A final verdict on the appeal process is expected by the end of next month. But yesterday, after beating Wayne Ferreira, 6-3, 6-4 at Battersea, Korda said: "I don't know if I will ever talk about it. It is not in my hands. I know what happened and it is not an easy situation. Once I quit, maybe a few months after that, I could make some comments."

He also denounced players, including Greg Rusedski, who used the media to express their views on his predicament. "Any player can challenge me face to face instead of laughing behind me," he said. "I am following the rules and no one has the right to clean my house out. Greg doesn't know the rules or about my case," he continued, "but I am not going to be offensive to anyone."

Korda's words added spice to his possible second-round encounter with Rusedski, who opened his campaign last night against Gianluca Pozzi, of Italy. More relaxed in his mind was Thomas Johansson, who registered a victory over Petr Luxa, a qualifier from the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4.

Johansson, seeded No 8, will remember his win over an opponent ranked No 212 for one reason. It was the Swede's first of the year after first-round exits in Doha, Sydney and Melbourne. Still, it is not a bad life: Johansson earned $21,000 (around £13,000) for losing those matches.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, for one, will have welcomed Johansson's reviving fortunes. He must beat the Swede in their projected quarter-final on Friday, thereby earning valuable bonus ranking points, to wrest the No 1 spot from Sampras. Anything less and the Russian will be obliged to progress to the final.

Cedric Pioline, the beaten finalist last year, collapsed at the first hurdle this time against the enigmatic Nicolas Kiefer, of Germany. In succumbing over three sets in the quarter-finals in Rotterdam last week, Pioline lost both the tie-breaks he played against Rusedski. A similar fate befell him here as Kiefer rallied to oust the Frenchman 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 after just over 2½ hours.

Henman, who opens tomorrow against one Slovakian in Jan Kroslak, learnt yesterday that victory would pitch him against another in Dominik Hrbaty, who bettered Stefano Pescosolido. Hrbaty prevailed 6-3, 6-7, 6-2 in another lengthy encounter.

A sombre mood governed events yesterday after the death of Menno Oosting, of Holland. The player was killed in a car crash when returning home from a challenger event in France on Monday night. Several players observed a minute's silence on the court. Among them were two of his compatriots: Paul Haarhuis, who spoke eloquently of Oosting, and Rickard Krajicek, who was moved to tears.



GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT

Korda serves during his win over Wayne Ferreira in Battersea Park, London, yesterday

LINKS

WEBSITE:
www.atptour.com
TELEVISION:
BBC2, 2.10 (highlights)

Brotherhood of beauty and the beast

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

What do you have to do to get sent off in a rugby union match? We debated this question after the England v Scotland match with precisely that degree of seriousness that we feel is expected of sportswriters of our calibre. How about if you mowed down the entire opposition pack with an Uzi?

Nah. You'd get a pretty serious talking-to, mind you. A real finger-wagging. You! No 4, white! You know perfectly well you're not supposed to use that gun on full automatic. Next time, keep it to single shots, all right? Or I might have to give you a yellow card.

Actually, I have changed my mind about Martin Johnson. I said on Monday that he was a Cro-Magnon: further research makes it clear he is a dead ringer for the *Homo erectus* skull found east of Lake Turkana in 1975. The extraordinary development of the brow-ridge makes diagnosis certain.

Johnson is, I read, a big man in many ways. Mainly, it must be said, in terms of size. In demeanour he reminds me of Spiny Norman, the giant hedgehog in Monty Python who stalked the streets of London as the nemesis of Dinsdale Piranha. You can just see Johnson walking heavy-footed across the Twickenham turf, bassing out the terrible words: "Dins-dale! Dins-dale!"

Dinsdale Piranha's main form of retribution was nailing people's heads to the floor. "I wanted him to do it, like, because I'd transgressed the unwritten law." *The Times* on Monday had a nice picture of Johnson nailing John Leslie's head to the floor. He used his left boot to do so — I do love a forward who is genuinely two-footed, don't you? All his weight was in the air: and down he came. Look out, larynx.

> 'It's just a very violent game'

Now stamping on a chap's larynx can be as lethal as snapping off half a magazine from an Uzi. And the referee was so shocked and appalled that he felt that a mere talking-to was not enough. And so he took extreme measures: a yellow card!

And this means that Johnson can't actually be punished further. This seems illogical, considering that a yellow card is not so much a punishment as a warning, but there you go. A yellow card closes the matter.

Just as Johnson stalks the field in the guise of *Homo erectus*, so beings of the more recent past stalk through every corner of rugby union. The ruling spirit is, as ever, what's-it-got-do-with-you? Boys will be boys, let's all kick the crap out of each other and it's all right because we generally have 23 pints each afterwards and that's the great brotherhood of rugby union, right boys?

Rugby union is in love with what is hidden, secret, set apart. Rugby union never closes ranks, because its ranks have never for a second opened. It is the very nature of the sport: the forwards line up as one man and blows and biffs are given and returned in the many-legged heart of things.

And ear-biting and stamping and punching and gouging go on because the structure of the game makes such things inevitable. Very large strong men are rolling over and over on the floor for the possession of one small thing and nobody can see what's going on.

Ruck laws change and change again but the nature of a ruck makes laws almost impossible to write, and, even if perfectly written, impossible to impose with even-handedness, still less accuracy. Professionalism has not created this climate of secret violence: it has merely added one more pint of bat's blood to the cauldron.

In football you get a yellow card for looking cross and you get sent off for sneezing. The game has swung the other way. Perhaps all games performed in public in front of paying spectators must do so.

But rugby remains in thrall to the notion of secrecy and the ruck is at the heart of it all, for that matter at the very heart of rugby. And, even if the will to police the ruck exists, I doubt very much if policing it is a practical prospect. Rugby can't live with the ruck, can't live without it. There will be many more of these cases of stamping, stud-raking, punching and ear-biting.

It is simply a very violent game. That is its beauty, and its curse. Even if a genuine will to control the illegal part of that violence existed — and it does not — then rugby's officials would be forever running up the down escalator . . . with Spiny Norman rushing down to meet them, teeth bared. Dins-dale!



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Luckily, as in golf, there are no pictures on the score-card at bridge. My antics on this hand from the 1998 Gold Cup final went unnoticed by the rest of the team when we only lost 1 IMP on the board.

Dealer East	N-S game	IMPs
	♠ K Q 10 3 ♡ A 8 7 3 ♢ 8 3 ♣ K 6 5	
♠ A 9 8 5 ♡ 9 ♢ 10 9 7 6 4 2 ♣ Q J	N / W E / S	♠ J 7 2 ♡ K J 5 ♢ K Q 5 ♣ 9 7 3 2
	♠ 6 4 ♡ Q 10 6 4 2 ♢ A J ♣ A 10 8 4	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ten of diamonds.

After East passed I opened One Heart, and my partner Howard Cohen put me into Four Hearts. After the diamond lead my chances were poor, though as it happens, I have no club loser if I guess that suit correctly. Also the spade situation is exceptionally favourable. If I lead twice towards the king-queen, West gives me three tricks in the suit if he rises with the ace, and if he ducks twice my spade loser disappears.

To cater for this spade holding I won East's queen of diamonds and played a spade. West (Terry Goldsmith) went in with the ace straight away. Had he continued diamonds there would have been no story, but he switched to the queen of clubs.

I won in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and took two spade tricks, discarding my diamond loser. When East (Gerald Soper) followed with the jack of spades on the third round it seemed safe enough to play a fourth spade. I presumed he would ruff from either king-jack or jack alone, so effectively it was like playing a trump.

However, Soper discarded. Now I placed West with both outstanding trumps, and so ruffed dummy's remaining diamond and exited with a heart from hand. I hoped West would have to win and play a club away from his jack.

Unfortunately it was East who had the two trump tricks, and after he had cashed them and correctly played a club, there was a nervous moment when I put in the eight. But the jack appeared, and when we scored up I was able to reply casually "one away" when my team-mates announced "minus 650".

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Joint lead

After two rounds of the elite tournament in Linares, Spain, two players share the lead: Garry Kasparov, the world champion, who scored a rare win as Black against Ivanchuk, and Michael Adams, of Great Britain.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be3	Ng4
7	Bg5	h6
8	Bh4	g5
9	Bg3	Bg7
10	Qd2	Nc6
11	Nb3	Nge5
12	f3	b5
13	Bf2	Rb8
14	Nd4	b4
15	Nd1	Nxd4
16	Bxd4	d5
17	exd5	Qxd5
18	c3	0-0
19	Be2	Rd8
20	Qe3	Bb7
21	Nf2	bxc3
22	Bxc3	Qe6
23	Kf1	Bd5
24	b3	Rbc8
25	Rd1	Rxc3
26	Qxc3	Ng4
27	Qa5	Ne3+
28	Kg1	Rc8
29	Qxa6	Nxd1
30	Qxe6	Bxe6
31	Bxd1	Rc1

White resigns

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Michael Adams
Linares 1999

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	h3	Bb7
9	d3	h6
10	Nbd2	Re8
11	c3	Bf8
12	a3	d6
13	Ba2	Nb8
14	Nh4	d5
15	Qf3	c6
16	b4	Nbd7
17	Nb3	Rc8
18	Nf5	Ba8
19	Be3	Kh7
20	Nc5	Nxc5
21	Bxc5	g6
22	Ng3	Bxc5
23	bxc5	Kg7
24	d4	Qc7
25	Re3	exd4
26	cxd4	Nxe4
27	Nxe4	Rxe4
28	Rxe4	dxe4
29	Qxe4	Bb7
30	Re1	Rd8
31	Qf3	Bc8
32	Qc3	f6
33	Re3	h5
34	Bb1	Qf7
35	h4	Re8
36	Be4	Bd7
37	Qd3	f5
38	Bf3	Qf6
39	Rxe8	Bxe8
40	g3	f4
41	Kg2	Draw

Diagram of final position of the Kasparov victory

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Video referee's debut delayed

By Christopher Irvine

A VIDEO referee will make a first appearance at Wembley for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on May 1. Rulings on close try-scoring decisions referred by the referee will be made from television pictures and relayed by red and green lights visible to the crowd, as in cricket.

The system was to have been used in the televised fifth-round matches between Leeds Rhinos and St Helens last Saturday and Warrington Wolves and Halifax Blue Sox last Sunday. However, because of technical problems, its debut has been delayed until the quarter-finals next month.

The light-board has been a feature of the Australian game for a couple of seasons, while the video screen, as pioneered in coverage of live Super League matches on BSkyB in 1996, has become an accepted, if expensive, means of judging contentious scoring decisions.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is anxious to learn more about reports from Australia that have cast doubt on the tri-nations series between Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand in October and November.

Problems with forward planning and the shelving of a World Cup in Australia last year looked to have been resolved with a series of international initiatives put in place, including the rescheduling of the World Cup for 2000 in Britain, by the new Rugby League International Federation (RLIF).

However, Gerald Ryan, the New Zealand Rugby League chairman, has reportedly threatened to withdraw New Zealand unless Australia table a business plan for the tri-nations, while David Barnhill, the Australian Rugby League general manager, has been quoted as saying that a decision whether to proceed with the annual series against the Kiwis or admit Britain had not yet been made.

The RFL is seeking assurances before the RLIF meeting in Sydney next month, otherwise the game's international reputation will be dealt another damaging blow. The World Nines, due to have been held in Johannesburg last month, were cancelled by the South African Rugby League because of a lack of television gurantees, which has put a question mark against a proposed game there between Britain and New Zealand in November.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ CRICKET: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) emphasised yesterday its intention that the World Cup in England this summer should be a carnival, family affair with no bans on fancy dress or musical instruments inside grounds..It hopes to attract more women to the competition. The ECB announced that Outspan, the citrus fruit company, will be an official supplier to the World Cup and that it will undertake research on women's views about cricket. A free, magazine called *Bodyline* will help them understand the finer points.

■ ATHLETICS: Richard Nerurkar has been forced to withdraw from the 1999 Flora London Marathon on medical advice. Nerurkar, of Britain, fifth in the 1997 event, said: "I've struggled to find my best form in training and competition and, following a series of medical tests I've had over the past three weeks, I have been advised to take an extended period of quiet training."

■ HOCKEY: Mike Corby, who has made 59 appearances for England and 33 for Great Britain, has been nominated by the Middlesex County Hockey Association to stand for the position of vice-president of the English Hockey Association at the forthcoming annual general meeting. He is at present vice-president of the English Squash Rackets Association and the world federation.

SPORTS POLITICS: GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE NEW NETWORK FOR TRAINING

Regional centres to groom our talent

By John Goodbody

JOHN MAJOR'S vision of Britain having a £160 million Academy of Sport to groom stars is finally over. The Government will announce on Monday that there will be a network of ten regional centres in England, with Sheffield, once picked as its hub, now downgraded to becoming just one of these facilities for training.

Instead of being the glittering centrepiece for reviving Britain's sporting prestige, only a handful of sports will be using the proposed site in the Lower Don Valley. However, Sheffield will still house the centre for sports science, medicine and research. The original plan, announced four years ago by the former Prime Minister, included an academy, offering residential places for 500 young people, who would improve their sporting ability while pursuing academic subjects.

The scheme will please most national governing bodies, which originally opposed Major's plans for a UK Sports Institute (UKSI) but had to wait until after the change of government in 1997 to be heard. David Sparkes, the chief executive of the Amateur Swimming Association, said yesterday: "We have got what sport wanted — a series of network regional sites. But we have wasted at least two years in getting there."

Some sports, such as football and cricket, want their own specialist national centres, and did not want to be part of an all-embracing central academy.

The network of ten regional facilities, including Bath and Loughborough, will accommodate many outstanding competitors closer to their homes. The £160 million of National Lottery money, originally earmarked for the UKSI, will still be used for the capital projects, but only £40 million will be given to Sheffield, split between its regional facilities and the sports medicine and research centre.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HEDERIGERENT
a. A female regent
b. Cantankerous
c. Wearing ivy

JALAP
a. A Japanese/Laplander
b. A thick enamel
c. A purgative

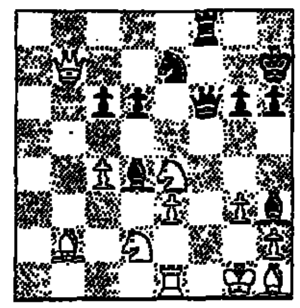
HYGROMA
a. A tumour
b. A sea monster
c. A seaweed

HARMATTAN
a. A wind
b. A New York district
c. A Muslim feast

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

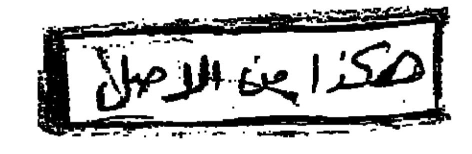


Black to play. This position is from the game Mayer — Nakamura, Washington 1998.

How did Black make the most of his powerful pair of bishops?



Solution on page 46



Matchplay tournament promises to be thrilling spectacle



LENNY IGNELZI

Westwood, seeded No 5 for the matchplay championship, chips from the bunker at the 17th during his practice round at La Costa golf club yesterday

Faldo hoping to cut down Woods

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

THE excitement of recent Ryder Cups has emphasised golf's need for a true matchplay event in which the best players in the world are pitted against one another in a full-field tournament. At last, the sport has one. Sixty-four of the leading 65 professionals will compete in the Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship, which starts here, this morning, at the La Costa resort, a few miles inland from the Pacific Ocean.

The first four rounds will take place over 18 holes, with the final being over 36. Some of the matches are breathtaking in prospect. Tiger Woods, who won the Buick Invitational tournament ten days ago, just when it seemed David Duval was going to take his position as the world No 1, will face Nick Faldo, who only got into the event because Jumbo Ozaki, of Japan, declined to play. "On paper Tiger ought to dust me off," Faldo said on Monday night. "He is the world No 1 and winning tournaments all over the place. I am at the opposite end. But he is the guy under pressure and anything can happen at matchplay."

Colin Montgomerie, who, arguably, could be described as the world matchplay champion having won a smaller version of this event in Arizona last year, plays Craig Stadler. A relatively unknown player to watch out for over the next few days is Shigeki Maruyama, of Japan.

The 29-year-old competed for the International team in the Presidents Cup last November and won all five of his matches against a United States team boasting several big-name players.

Lee Westwood faces Eduardo Romero. Form suggests that as Westwood is seeded fifth and Romero sixtieth, Westwood is favoured to reach the second round, though he knows as well as anyone the vagaries of matchplay.

"I have not looked past Romero," Westwood said yesterday. "Every match is difficult. You cannot get away with level par every day. You hope you do not get a player who is having a hot day unless you are having one as well."

Westwood knows about hot days. In one of the matches he and John, his father, had at Worksop, Westwood Jr, then playing off plus 4, found himself nine down after ten holes.

"Lee does not like losing to me at anything," Westwood snr said. "He will lose to anyone else, but not to me. It is something to do with me never letting him win as a child."

This is the first of three events that make up the World Golf Championship (WGC). The other two events are strokeplay contests, held at Akron, Ohio, in August, and Valderrama, Spain, in November. Prize-money at all of them is enormous — a total of $5 million (around £3 million) being distributed, with the overall winner collecting $1 million.

Here, even first-round losers will be rewarded with $25,000. As this money counts towards Ryder Cup selection, it means that those players who are eligible to compete in WGCevents have an enormous advantage in the race to represent their continent than those who do not. Ken Schofield, executive director of the European Tour, is satisfied with this, but Severiano Ballesteros, at present not even in the top 200 in the world, is furious.

La Costa is one of these spectacularly comfortable and expensive resorts that are commonplace in the United States. The rooms start at $350 per night and there is a suite that costs almost four times that amount. It lacks nothing in luxury, but Westwood believes the course leaves something to be desired.

"I don't think that 40-yard fairways are quite the thing," Westwood, an accurate driver, said. "Every hole looks like a driving range. It does not test every aspect of your game."

On the eve of this tournament there was genuine excitement at what was about to unfold. The Americans, who are much more familiar with strokeplay, are particularly inquisitive. By Sunday, however, they should be much the wiser. This is potentially a terrific tournament and every follower of the sport must hope it lives up to its advance billing.

WORLD MATCH PLAY FIRST-ROUND DRAW

LINKS
WEBSITE:
www.pgatour.com
TELEVISION:
Sky Sports 3, 7pm (live)

Cup carried off by Scotland

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THERE was a surprising disclosure in Birmingham yesterday when it was revealed that the Solheim Cup next year is to be held at Loch Lomond and not, as previously announced, at Sunningdale.

Tim Howland, the recently appointed chief executive of the European Ladies' Professional Golf Association (ELPGA), cited "commercial realities" for the move. "I can't go into detail on the commercial side," he said, "but after a great deal of deliberation and consultation, with the support of the Solheim family, the ELPGA has decided that the Solheim Cup will take place at Loch Lomond Golf Club in the millennium year."

Howland and John Solheim, president of the Ping Corporation, sponsor of the biennial match between the women professionals of Europe and the United States, emphasised that Sunningdale had been "very understanding". Chris Needham, the club captain, said: "We're very, very sorry to lose the Solheim Cup, but it goes to Loch Lomond with our blessing."

Sunningdale, which celebrates its centenary in 2000 and successfully staged the Weetabix Women's British Open in 1997, charges a facility fee, which the ELPGA, a pretty impoverished body at the moment, can ill afford. The move to Scotland is also supported by Dunbartonshire Enterprise, which is hoping for a boost for tourism in the area and the local economy.

It seems to be a European trend to take the Ryder Cup and the Solheim Cup away from the old-fashioned, traditional courses, but Loch Lomond is building a fair reputation for itself and there is no doubt that the course, designed by Tom Weiskopf and venue for the Standard Life event the week before the Open Championship, is in a magnificent setting. It has already been extravagantly praised and Nick Faldo once called it the best inland course in Europe.

It also has the advantage of being a lot farther north than Sunningdale and, because the match is being played from October 6 to 8, the extra hours of daylight will be vital. The only other time the match was held in Scotland, at Dalmahoy in 1992, Europe won — their sole victory in five attempts so far.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

HEDERIGERENT
(c) Bearing or wearing ivy. The Latin hedera means ivy, and gerens carrying.

JALAP
(c) A purgative drug obtained from the tuberous roots of Exogonium (Ipomoea) Purga and some other convolvulaceous plants.

HYGROMA
(a) A tumour containing serum or other morbid fluid, but not pus. A serous cyst.

HARMATTAN
(a) A dry parching land-wind, which blows during December, January and February, on the coast of Upper Guinea in Africa.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 ... Bxe3+!; 2 Rxe3 Qf1+!; 3 Nxf1 Rxf1 checkmate.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup
Fifth-round replays
Blackburn v Newcastle (7.45), Derby v Huddersfield (7.45), Tottenham v Leeds (7.45).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: St Leonards v [illegible]. **Midland division:** [illegible] v Weston-super-Mare (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilla first division Cup: Third round: [illegible] Town v Radcliffe. **President's Cup: Second-round replay:** Leigh RMI v Altrincham

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth-round replay: Sunderland v Nottingham Forest

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Northampton v Stoke (7.0); [illegible] v Birmingham (7.0). **North West Conference:** Stockport v Bury (2.0); Preston v Wigan (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Charlton (7.0); Cambridge v Chelsea (7.0); Gillingham v Norwich; Peterborough v Wimbledon (7.0); Portsmouth v Arsenal; Swindon v West Ham (7.15); Watford v Fulham; Wycombe v Queens Park Rangers (2.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Forest v Manchester Utd (7.0). **First division:** Bolton v Grimsby (7.0); Middlesbrough v Tranmere (7.0); Port Vale v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0). **Second division:** Blackpool v Lincoln (7.0); Scunthorpe v Shrewsbury (7.0). **Third division:** Bury v Chester; Chesterfield v Walsall (2.0); Darlington v Rochdale (2.0).

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Highworth v Shortwood; North Leigh v Abingdon.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Easington. **League Cup: Fourth round:** Bedlington Terriers v Morpeth, Guisborough v Dunston Federation, Jarrow Roofing v West Auckland.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Taunton v Westbury (7.45).

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Toddington v Harpenden (7.45).

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Lye Town v Wolverhampton; Tipton Town v Kington Town

JEWSON LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Fourstowe Port and Town v Histon (7.45)

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Downton v Cowes Sports (7.15), Eastleigh v Thatcham Town

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Selsey v Wick

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE CUP: Third-round replay: Clitheroe v St Helens Town

RUGBY LEAGUE

Club match
Hunslet v Gateshead (6.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship qualifying match: England v Belarus (at Crystal Palace NSC, 7.30)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Manchester Storm (7.30); Sheffield Steelers v Cardiff Devils (7.30)

RUGBY UNION: Club match: Royal Navy v Cambridge University (at US Portsmouth, 6.15)

TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park).

TELEVISION CHOICE

A swashbuckler's return

Hornblower: The Duchess and the Devil
ITV, 8pm

Ioan Gruffudd returns as Horatio Hornblower in this third of a series of handsome adaptations from the novels of naval derring-do in the Napoleonic Wars. Being the thoroughly decent egg that he is, Hornblower not only masterminds the capture of a French sloop attempting to break the British Fleet's blockade of Cadiz, but also pluckily leads his men through the ordeal of capture and of imprisonment by the Spanish, rescues the crew of a ship wrecked near the prison and surrenders himself again to the Spanish because he has given his word not to escape. It would all be insufferably noble if not for the over-the-top behaviour of all around him: tonight, they include Cherie Lunghi having fun as a dodgy Duchess and Ronald Pickup as the hairiest, scruffiest prison governor this side of *Prisoner: Cell Block H*.

Cherie Lunghi and Ioan Gruffudd star in a new adventure for Hornblower (ITV, 8pm)

Jasper Carrott — Back to the Front
BBC1, 9.30pm (not Scotland)

I don't know what proportion of his material Carrott writes (half a dozen writers are also credited), but he certainly understands the dynamics of stand-up comedy, as demonstrated in this first of what is described as his "first all stand-up series for television" (I could have sworn he's done it before, more than once). Marking his 30th anniversary in showbiz, it inevitably reflects his advancing years. The series is a distillation of material prepared for a long tour, which sometimes shows in the way he delivers a line or a story almost regardless of the live audience reaction; but he is assured and absorbing, sympathetic and sardonic.

Trouble at the Top
BBC2, 9.50pm

The first of a new series looks at a Northampton company, a family business of shoe manufacturers facing a tough future after more than 100 years of existence. The fourth-generation boss, Steve Pateman, decides on a drastic gamble: he will enter the fetish market and produce a range of boots and shoes designed to be worn by men but made from red patent leather or fake leopard skin, some thigh-high or featuring stiletto heels reinforced to take the weight of a 15-stone man. Since money for promotion is short, Pateman decides to model the range himself for the mail-order catalogue. Some bosses, it seems, really will do anything to save their business . . .

Modern Times: Bookies Never Lose
BBC2, 9pm

It might be unusual to solicit sympathy for a bookmaker, but Robert Davis and Alistair Cook make a decent fist of it in this profile of an East Londoner, Barry, one of what might be the last generation of independent bookies who work actually at the race course. The big companies have been steadily squeezing out independent operators and the trend is probably irreversible. Barry has tasted success — posh motor, dining at top hotels — and was at one time able to indulge in drinking a bottle of whisky a day (after work, of course). Now he nurses a stomach ulcer and has taken out a second mortgage to make ends meet; he also has a pitch miles from the grandstand. It almost makes you want to place a bet. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Opera on 3: Peter Grimes
Radio 3, 7.10pm

Strands and sub-strands are one of the rather irritating hallmarks of Radio 3 programming and tonight *Opera on 3* acquires another level of labelling by becoming part of the *Sounding the Century* project. But that is undoubtedly justified for *Peter Grimes* is not just one of Benjamin Britten's key works; it is also one of the century's British classics, the tale of an outsider in a Suffolk fishing village whose tragic fate seems preordained. Tonight's live relay comes from the New Theatre, Cardiff, where Welsh National Opera presents a new production of the opera. Peter Stein is the director. John Daszak sings the title role and Janice Watson is Ellen Orford, Grimes's only real friend in the insular community.

Crufts — The History
Radio 4, 11.00am

Never ignore the obvious is a truism of programme-making as much as it is of print journalism; and dogs, the nation's favourite pets, are always a good bet for a series in either medium. Crufts is at the NEC next month and this series begins with its origins: a dog biscuit salesman came up with the idea as a means of boosting sales and the first show was at the Agricultural Halls in Islington in 1886. I had always thought that the obsession with pedigree was a relatively recent phenomenon but here we discover that it dates back to the mid-19th century and beyond. There is also some frightening genetic manipulation detailed in the programme: listen out for the wolf-becomes-whippet sequence. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Scott Mills **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel. A session by AC Acoustics **12.00am** Blue Jam **1.00** Gilles Peterson **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** John Inverdale **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** Berry Gordy's Motown. Alan Freeman presents a new four-part series investigating the Motown record label (1/4) **10.00** Top of the Pops 2 on 2 (4/13) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News with Allan Robb **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. Full coverage of all the night's action, with commentary on the big game. Plus, the National Lottery draw **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** Jacobs Justice **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **7.00** Off Side with Seb Coe **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** One Planet **9.00** World News **9.05** Sounds Right **9.20** World Ranking **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Legal World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** One Planet **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Jazzmatazz **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: X-Press **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Sports International **7.00** World News **7.05** One Planet **7.30** Legal World **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: X-Press **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** One Planet **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Live **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Everywoman **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Markham spins listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Poulenc (Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** *Evening Concert*. Dvorak (Symphonic Variations), Rubbra (Viola Concerto), Stenhammar (Serenade in F major) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Poulenc (Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in D minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny with music and arts news, including a review of last night's Kronos Quartet concert in Glasgow
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Fasch (Trumpet Concerto in D), Schubert (Piano Sonata in C, D840), Britten (Prelude and Fugue), Janacek (Mladi), Vorisek (Symphony in D)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Pascal Roge
11.00 Sound Stories: Planets — Venus With Richard Baker. Includes Jean-Henri Anglebert (Sarabande, Birth of Venus), Respighi (The Birth of Venus, Three Botticelli Pictures); Mozart (Venus's Aria, Ascanio in Alba), Holst (Venus, The Planets)
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Copland
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Royal Concert Hall. Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Tadaaki Otaka and Vassily Sinaisky, Peter Donohoe, piano, Nikita Storoyev, bass. Leeds Festival Chorus, Huddersfield Choral Society. Tchaikovsky (Voyevoda; Piano Concerto No 3 in E flat minor; Concert Fantasia in G); Shostakovich (Symphony No 13, Babi Yar)
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Organist and master of the choristers Ian Tracey. Assistant organist Ian Wells
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty explores the dance rhythms of Spain with the pianist Martin Jones
7.10 Performance on 3: Peter Grimes Live from New Theatre, Cardiff. Welsh National Opera's new production of Britten's classic. With John Daszak, tenor, Janice Watson, soprano, Donald Maxwell, baritone, Ann Howard, contralto, Peter Bronder, tenor, Chorus and Orchestra of Welsh National Opera under Carlo Rizzi. Part one. See Choice **8.10** The Original Peter Grimes. Tom Rosenthal compares the original Peter Grimes as depicted in the poem by the eccentric Suffolk poet George Crabbe to the one that Britten put on the stage **8.30** Peter Grimes, part two **9.25** Postscript: Doctors of Philosophy — Montaigne (3/5) **9.50** Peter Grimes, part three
10.45 Night Waves Laura Cumming discusses T.J. Clark's huge historical undertaking, *Farewell to an Idea*, which examines the history and demise of Modernism
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton talks to Cyrus Chesnut about his role in the film *Kansas City*
12.00am Composer of the Week: Dvorak
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** International Radio Archives. A 1954 recital by the pianist Sviatoslav Richter **2.30** Vaughan Williams (Sea Songs) **2.45** Geminiani (Concerto grosso No 12 in D minor, after Corelli) **3.00** Schools: Time and Tune **3.20** Together **3.40** Dance Workshop **4.00** The Song Tree **4.20 Scottish Resources 10-12** **4.40** Talking Points **5.00** Duparc (Chanson triste) **5.20** Bach (*Concerto in A minor for four harpsichords*) **5.40** Mozart (Five Contradances, K609) **5.50** Bellini, arr anon (Concerto in E flat)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Rachel Morgan
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Midweek with the *Libby Purves* and guests
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Spirit Wrestlers Part three. A visit to the old Cossack communities in the south
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Crufts New series. See Choice (1/3)
11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time Jeffrey Robinson traces the history of the American radio soap opera of the 1930s and 1940s (r)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and investigations presented by Mark Whittaker and Trine Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Board Game The business quiz
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Women on Love — Coat Promotion at work causes marital difficulties in Tanika Gupta's drama, inspired by Vicky Feaver's poem. Starring Adjoa Andoh, Tony Armatrading, Rob Harper and Rachel Atkins
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Wyke Regis Horticultural Society members quiz Bob Flowerdew, Roy Lancaster and Anne Swithinbank (r)
3.30 Sale of the Century Stephen Bayley examines creativity in the lucrative world of advertising (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 38 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 All in the Mind Professor Anthony Clare explores the limits of the human mind
4.30 Thinking Allowed: The Larger Map Laurie Taylor meets three people putting Stoke in the limelight
5.00 PM with Clare English and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Ballylenon Christopher Fitz-Simon's comedy drama. Samuel is fearful of certain disclosures. Starring T.P. McKenna, Margaret D'Arcy and Stella McCusker (r)
7.00 The Archers Shula takes her test
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part eight. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk presents topical debate, with David Starkey, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook
8.45 Lent Talks Writers with contrasting religious beliefs discuss the Easter story (2/7)
9.00 Frontiers Peter Evans investigates such conditions as Aids and BSE, which only became dangerous once they'd migrated into new species
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain Patrick Malahide reads part eight of Patrick O'Brien's nautical novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: Truly, Madly, Bletchley Julian Dutton's comedy based in the town of Bletchley. With Liz Fraser and Peter Hugo-Daly (3/6)
11.15 MacFlintock's Palace Comedy set in a Victorian music-hall, written and performed by Mark McDonnell and Steven McNicoll (3/6)
11.30 (FM) Mammon A satirical spin on the world of money and the media by Nick Hildred (2/6) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Sam Peckinpah: If It Moves — Kill 'Em Part three. Bill Hootkins reads David Weddle's biography of film director Sam Peckinpah
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Gay drama that's all mouth and no trousers

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

Unlike, say, Texas, which has no homosexuals — not still alive at any rate — Manchester has a thriving gay community around Canal Street, an area where community spirit manifests itself not by the locals regularly popping into each other's houses for a bowl of sugar but by the locals regularly popping into each other. For those of you who don't get out much, Channel 4 brought the mountain to Muhammed last night when it finally dragged its noisy new drama, **Queer As Folk**, out of the closet. So, did you find the experience more enjoyable than you'd been expecting? Fancy coming back for more of the same next week?

There's no getting round the homosexuality. Treating *Queer As Folk* as just another TV drama — which just happens to feature gays — is like pretending Cyrano de Bergerac is like any other bloke, though, now you mention it, he does seem to have the most whopping nose: it's funny that I didn't notice it before.

Cyrano *is* half man, half nose. But what makes him captivating is that he's a romantic, shy, poetic, love-struck, selfless, tragic man who is trapped by other people's obsessions with his hooter. People can't see past his nose, literally or figuratively. It's not that he wants people to act as if he doesn't have a nose as big as *Apollo 13*, but he does want people to see beyond it. So, if we look beyond the gayness in *Queer As Folk*, is there anything more complex there? Or is it about gays the way *Emanuelle* is about sex — that is, if Sylvia Kristel didn't get her kit off every four minutes you'd just as soon go to bed and read *Investor's Chronicle*?

I think there probably is more, but *Queer As Folk* is trying so hard to taunt primmer viewers into being affronted that it's in danger of making the rest of us slightly bored while it gets its bravado out of its system. At times it was like listening to a precocious child who thinks he's impressing the world by using needlessly long words: most of which he manages to mispronounce slightly, thereby fraying the effect a bit.

The whole thing moves along at a zippy pace (unzippy too, obviously). It is sharply written, by Russell T. Davies. It's madly glossy (Manchester's gays live in lofts so spacious you could play the FA Cup Final in them). And — like *Sex and the City*, the other series which Channel 4 has been trying desperately hard to have lambasted by an outraged press, and which was also set in an improbably glossy world — it is well acted: Aidan Gillen, the rich, handsome 29-year-old around whom the action (and half of Manchester's gay community) revolves, carries his air of smug self-satisfied rapture so well that it makes orgasms seem superfluous. Charles McDougall's direction is so fast you need to hail a cab to keep up.

But so far, it's slightly unengaging. If *Queer As Folk* didn't have the novelty of gay sex, would anyone have made the same fuss about it? Or got excited about it in a positive way, rather than just because they were outraged by its depiction of under-age man-boy sex? It has a certain cynicism that could just be a stab at chic metropolitan knowingness, but you can imagine it leaving a nasty taste in many viewers' mouths.

Brighton, of course, used to be the place to find queers, peers and racketeers. Now it has Julie Burchill. "It is a horrible thing to say," said Toby Young in **Close Up: Who Does Julie Burchill Think She Is?** (BBC2), "but if she'd been killed in a car crash, about five years ago, that would have been perfect. It's as though Elvis, or Marilyn Monroe, or John Lennon hadn't died, and they'd hung around and they'd become these awful parodies of themselves." Can you tell that Toby and Julie had a small falling-out?

Burchill calls herself a "one-trick pony, but I do it quite well", and Nikki Hinman and Simon Chu's lively documentary seemed to be wondering if this 39-year-old pony was now fit only for the knacker's yard. Young — whom Burchill wanted to replace as editor of *Modern Review* (the magazine she mostly financed) with a young girl with whom she had fallen in love — was the loudest voice for the prosecution.

Most of the other witnesses seemed to feel that even if the pony wasn't quite as frisky in print as she was in her heyday, she can still kick like a mule in a way that poorer columnists can't. And with Burchill you're never sure when her next heyday might be. Her career hasn't traced a conventional rise-and-fall trajectory. It has moved, rather, like the bouncing bomb: every time you think it might be going under, it leaps upwards for another bounce. As she pointed out, there are so many Burchill wannabes out there that every now and then an editor turns up who thinks, why not pay a little more and hire the real thing? Her shamelessness, fearlessness, honesty, and her pathological need to shock, along with her unshakeable self-belief, could produce an unpalatable cocktail, but her skill is that she has made them work: often dazzlingly.

Workers At War (BBC1) showed what happens when the staff want more serious revenge than verbal feuding. Toby Young took his revenge against Burchill by closing down her magazine. To feature in last night's *Workers At War* he'd have had to burn down her house, too. Here were people — angry at being sacked, or not hired, or unpaid — who didn't know where to draw the line when they got mad. It's usually best to forgive and forget. But it's true that it's much easier to forgive once you've got even.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (83076)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (12415)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8689453)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4095328)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6150892)
11.00 Change That (6177569)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6147328)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1320415)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (80714)
12.30 Wipeout (3596427)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48893279)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (15502)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47515347)
1.40 Neighbours Mike moves into Ramsay Street (T) (25494502)
2.05 Ironside Mark celebrates his graduation, and makes a career choice (r) (3541163)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (5895453)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6718182) **3.45** Little Monsters (2688786) **3.50** ChuckleVision (5427298) **4.10** See It Saw It (3920692) **4.35** The Wild House (5580347) **5.00** Newsround (2020415) **5.10** Blue Peter (6672057)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (935618)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (279)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (231)



Craig Doyle introduces a selection of bargain holiday ideas (7pm)

7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring New series. Craig Doyle presents the best in bargain holidays (1/6) (T) (4328)
7.30 Tomorrow's World New presenter Lindsey Fallow reports on a revolutionary design for crash helmets (T) (415)
8.00 Changing Rooms Two Knebworth homes are made over (T) (3076)
8.30 Comic Relief Jukebox (T) (293250)
8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (T) (195279)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6237)
9.29 National Lottery Update (669705)
9.30 CHOICE **Jasper Carrott: Back to the Front** New series. The Brummie funnyman celebrates 30 years in showbusiness (1/6) (T) (45182)
10.00 The X Files A priest enlists the agents' help when a young disabled girl's body is found (T) (783637)
10.45 Ruby Wax Meets Goldie Hawn Ruby interviews the Hollywood star (r) (213637)
11.15 Black and White (3/3) (T) (809569)
11.50 Victim of Beauty (1991) FILM A woman whose beauty-queen sister has been abducted sets out to trap the sadistic kidnapper (T) (756142)
1.25am Weather (5129545)
1.30 BBC News 24 (8707125)

10.45 The State (T) (213637) **11.15 Ruby Wax Meets Goldie Hawn** (r) (203250) **11.45 Black and White** (3/3) (T) (652873) **12.20am FILM: Victim of Beauty** (T) (997545) **1.55 News** (T) (8204458) **2.00-6.00 BBC News 24** (5690699)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Tales of the Tooth Fairies **7.05** Teletubbies **7.30** Snorks **7.50** The Really Wild Show **8.18** Rewind **8.20** Taz-Mania **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts **8.50** Tales of the Tooth Fairies **9.00** Environment **9.10** What? Where? When? Why? **9.25** The Art **9.45** Words and Pictures **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** Numbertime **10.45** Cats' Eyes **11.00** Around Scotland **11.20** The Geography Programme **11.40** Science in Action **12.00pm** Revista **12.15** Hallo aus Berlin **12.30** Working Lunch **1.00** Brum
1.10 The Travel Hour (r) (9523231)
2.10 International Tennis: The Guardian Direct Cup First-round highlights from Battersea Park (61679540)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3948618)
2.45 Westminster Political news (2845144)
3.55 News; Weather (T) (6889076)
4.00 Kaye (6899453)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6892540)
4.55 Esther Car-lovers (r) (T) (2813908)
5.25 Today's the Day (T) (6691182)
5.50 Lifeline War on Want (r) (T) (534279)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Troi's mother decides to get married (487908)
6.40 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Willow is possessed by an evil spirit (T) (243786)
7.25 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (296927)
7.30 Sophie Grigson's Herbs Sage and onion stuffinge (T) (647)
8.00 The House Detectives Juliet Morris and the team provide a glimpse into the history of a Cumbria chemist (r) (T) (1618)
8.00 WALES: Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey (8/8) (T) (1618)
8.30 Looking Good with Lowri Turner (3453)
9.00 CHOICE **Modern Times: Bookies Never Lose** A film following the independent on-course bookie Barry Dennis (T) (541521)



Steve Paterman presents a radical plan to save his business (9.50pm)

9.50 CHOICE **Trouble at the Top** New series. A failing family shoe business gambles on cornering a market in kinky boots for men (1/6) (T) (513705)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (279863)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (653182)
11.15 Comedy Nation Experimental sketches, with Ricky Grover (201892)
11.45 10x10 Beirut residents remember their city as it was before the war (T) (358540)
11.55 Weather (953144)
12.00am Despatch Box (76854)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Home and Away **1.00** Looking Glass World **1.30** Our Invisible Sun **2.00** Schools: Special Needs — Landmarks: The Caribbean and Coping with the Climate **4.00** Languages: Italianissimo 13-16 **5.00** Business and Training: RCN Nursing Updates — Clinical Effectiveness: What's the Evidence? **5.45** Open University: The Sunbaskers **6.10** Therapies on Trial **6.35** Health and Disease in Zimbabwe

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (29366)
6.00 GMTV (7365714)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5056279)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11153786)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7722415)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (27786)
1.00 Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents review local news live from Wotton-Under-Edge (40298)
1.00 WALES: Shortland Street Chris regrets his lost opportunities (40298)
1.30 Home and Away Joey's condition worsens (T) (26057)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous US talk show (T) (5474618)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (313076)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (8155340)
3.20 HTV News (T) (1305863)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (8050796) **3.35** Teddybears (3766637) **3.45** Jumanji (6607908) **4.10** Whizzwig (6872786) **4.40** Mad for It (2804250)
5.10 A Country Practice Darcy operates on Billy's dog (9812347)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (559347)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (539724)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (884786)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (738144)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (156540)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (927)
7.00 Emmerdale Kelly throws herself at Roy (T) (2724)



Roy (David Neilson) and Nick (Adam Rickitt) serve al fresco (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street It's judgment day for the Websters and Roy and Nick resort to trading outdoors (T) (811)
8.00 CHOICE **Hornblower** The third of four feature-length dramas charting the exploits of the seafaring hero, Hornblower. With Ioan Gruffudd, Robert Lindsay and Cherie Lunghi (3/4) (T) (4279)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (93231)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (936057)
10.40 The Big Match FA Cup fifth-round replay highlights (761540)
11.40 Renegade Reno takes on a gang of cattle rustlers who have injured a friend of Bobby (874873)
12.40am White Lie (1991) FILM Gregory Hines stars as a successful political aide trying to uncover the truth behind his father's murder. Drama starring Annette O'Toole. Directed by Bill Condon (165019)
2.20 Masterclass Thomas Allen (7402496)
2.50 Judge Judy Cameras record real-life court cases (1946800)
3.20 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9952564)
4.20 Videotech: Brits Winners Special Review of the last week's spectacular music ceremony (r) (47666380)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (88552564)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (45545)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News**; Weather (T) (8121347) **1.00 Echo Point** (40298) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1225908) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (314705) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (1305863) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9812347) **6.25-7.00 Central News**; Weather (T) (738144) **10.30-10.40 Central News**; Weather (T) (936057) **11.40 Tales from the Crypt** (r) (177502) **12.10am-12.45 Short Story Cinema** (2048767) **3.10 Trisha** (r) (T) (9955651) **4.10 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (4455403) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7030748)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (7722415) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8139366) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (40298) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1225908) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (314705) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (1305863) **5.08 Birthday People** (5907873) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9812347) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (35705) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (936057) **11.40-12.40 Doomsday** (874873)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News**; Weather (7722415) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (9582250) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9812347) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) ([illegible]) **6.30-7.00 Country Vets** (2/6) (r) (927) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News**; Weather (T) (936057) **11.40-12.40 Anatomy of Disaster** (874873) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (45545)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8133182) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8121347) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (9582250) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9812347) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (539724) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (347) **6.30-7.00 Whipsnade** (5/13) (T) (927) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (679809) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (936057) **11.40-12.40 In Suspicious Circumstances** (r) (T) (874873)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (47286076) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34713540) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science for Today (29132298) **9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (94831811) **9.45 Book Box** (94836366) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (20240328) **10.15 All About Us** (20263279) **10.30 The French Programme: Channel Hopping** (69527163) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (21521434) **11.00 Yr Amgylchedd** (95198076) **11.15 Tackling Technology** (95111927) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (40295521) **12.00pm Bewitched** (T) (29112434) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38750521) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34723927) **1.30 Roots to Success** (T) (34832892) **1.45 FILM: Laughter in Paradise** (T) (37353521) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81655705) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81667540) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (81663724) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (64144415) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81654076) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54966298) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16832705) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64164279) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81664453) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (64173927) **8.30 Pacio** (T) (64152434) **9.00 ER** (T) (14919237) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60854144) **10.35 Sex and the City** (T) (56261182) **11.05 The Real Story of Airtours Air Rage** (T) (67002366) **11.35 Mark Thomas Comedy Product** (T) (99308637) **12.10am The Spying Game** (3/6) (T) (32566187) **12.45 Le Tour de Lang Kawi 1999** (20077922) **1.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (66946403) **4.05 Trans World Sport** (29890632) **5.00 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (76786)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (38453)
9.00 Schools: Science for Today (10908) **9.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (T) (1511250) **9.45** Book Box (T) (1516705) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (9752618) **10.15** All About Us (9775569) **10.30** French Programme: Channel Hopping (7575366) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (3208434) **11.00** First Edition VI (8891415) **11.15** Tackling Technology (T) (8814366)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7250)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (90144)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (25328)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (31540)
1.30 The Three Stooges (r) (13240705)
1.50 Captain Boycott (1947) FILM Historical drama about Irish farmers' resistance to a tyrannical landowner in the late 19th century. With Stewart Granger. Directed by Frank Launder (T) (46199076)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (705)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (540)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5574786)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3138989)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (796)
6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Comedy, cooking and chat with Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins (33347)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (143347)
7.55 Transition: Lagos Stories The deputy governor of Lagos State, Kolo Buckner-Akerele, talks about her efforts to improve social conditions in Lagos (T) (206237)
8.00 Brookside Ryan sets out to prove Luke's innocence (T) (6786)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show A painting holiday in Alicante, sailing in the West Indies and four days of foxhunting in Ireland. Last in series (r) (T) (8521)
9.00 ER Weaver applies to be chief, while Jeanie makes a life-or-death decision and Hathaway and Evans clash over how to treat a gang member (T) (1569)
10.00 Sex and the City Carrie starts to charge (T) (91873)
10.30 The Real Story of Airtours Air Rage A behind-the-headlines look at the recent disturbance aboard a Jamaica-bound charter plane (30291)



More satire and elaborate hoaxes with Mark Thomas (11pm)

11.00 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Includes a piece on a secret American listening station (T) (8502)
11.30 So Graham Norton With Brenda Blethyn and Gloria Hunniford (r) (T) (788796)
12.10am boardstupid Snowboarding news and events (r) (2046309)
12.45 Le Tour de Langkawi 1999 Coverage of the gruelling 2,000km bicycle touring event (465729)
1.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (75944903)
4.05 Trans World Sport (4429748)
5.00 Defenders of the Wild Europe's honey buzzards (1/3) (5996632)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (6170786)
7.00 WideWorld Part four. Teaching children to enjoy reading (r) (T) (6545927)
7.30 Milkshake! (6842881)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (3790453)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4573927)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4572298)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (1265434)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7990705)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (6643989)
10.20 Sunset Beach Amy agrees to return the emerald (T) (1643182)
11.10 Leeza (4052705)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4543786)
12.30 Family Affairs Yasmin agrees to come home (r) (T); 5 News Update (9588960)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Grant confides in Katie (T) (6544298)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Melanie Griffith takes time off from her new TV series and working on Woody Allen's film *Celebrity* to talk to Roseanne (r) (9587231)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5733960)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (1386540)
3.30 Menu for Murder (TVM 1990) FILM Whodunnit about the strange circumstances surrounding the death of an unpopular school PTA president. Morgan Fairchild and Julia Duffy star. Directed by Larry Peerce (9370502)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (1596863)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (6990705)
6.30 Family Affairs Pete is absolutely furious with Claire (T) (6981057)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5744076)
7.30 Champions of Nature Lisa Gould visits Madagascar, home of the ring-tailed lemur (T); 5 News Update (6910569)
8.00 Tsunami: Killer Wave Eyewitness accounts and reconstructions of giant tidal waves, reaching 100ft in height and travelling at speeds of up to 500 mph. The result of volcanic activity on the sea floor, these natural disasters have wreaked havoc for thousands of years and threaten to do so again (r) (T); 5 News Update (1832298)
9.00 The Name of the Rose (1986) FILM Sean Connery plays a friar investigating a series of mysterious murders at a 14th-century Italian monastery. Jean-Jacques Annaud's medieval whodunnit based on Umberto Eco's bestselling novel, also starring Christian Slater, F. Murray Abraham, Michael Lonsdale and Ron Perlman. Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud (T); 5 News Update (1988811)
11.30 Melinda's Big Night In With Vidal Sassoon (7199328)
12.05am UK Raw A homecam adult website (2/10) (4644477)
12.35 Live NHL Ice Hockey Richard Orford and Todd Macklin report on the Western Conference clash between St Louis Blues and Los Angeles Kings (82895038)
4.40 The Movie Chart Show News and reviews (r) (65608019)
5.05 Move On Up (r) (46434941)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9535816)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (65621) **7.30** Chris Evans (66250) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (45618) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55705) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (73540) **11.00** Guilty! (60076) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (86453) **1.00** Mad About You (64892) **1.30** Jeopardy (73989) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (28502) **3.00** Jenny Jones (94521) **4.00** Guilty! (70328) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6927) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (2231) **6.30** Friends (6811) **7.00** Simpsons (6328) **7.30** Simpsons (2095) **8.00** Mortal Kombat: Conquest (21540) **9.00** The X Files (18076) **10.00** Naked in Westminster (11163) **11.00** Friends (71057) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (27144) **12.30am** The Commish (19293) **1.30** Long Play (7297458)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **The Postman (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Good Will Hunting (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Good Burger (1997)**
As Good as it Gets (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **The Edge (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Zero De Conduite (1933) (4274095) **6.45 L'Atalante (1934)** (97656231) **8.20 The Last Battle (1983)** (89930076) **10.00 Subway (1985)** (6382569) **11.45 The Big Blue (1988)** (74366584) **2.30am Braindead (1992)** (5671816) **4.10 Living in Oblivion (1995)** (2477941) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Cocoon (1985) (67989) **8.00 Angels in the Attic (1997)** (40724) **10.00 Keeping the Promise (1997)** (76076) **12.00pm Old Gringo (1989)** (30347) **2.00 Cocoon (1985)** (58647) **4.00 Angels in the Attic (1997)** (1673) **6.00 Keeping the Promise (1997)** (63724) **8.00 Bean (1997)** (25366) **10.00 The Devil's Own (1997)** (601188) **11.50 The Portrait of a Lady (1996)** (80320219) **2.15am The Juror (1996)** (924477) **4.15 Old Gringo (1989)** (167090)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.15am Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of the Apes (1974) (18910908) **7.00** Femmes Fatales (67989) **7.30** Action Heroes (5388250) **8.15** Movie Magic (3051188) **9.00 Chasing the Deer (1994)** (39618) **11.00 Unwed Father (1997)** (22540) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales (59960) **1.30** Action Heroes (9004908) **2.15** Movie Magic (2142618) **3.00 Chasing the Deer (1994)** (34300892) **4.40 Ivanhoe (1982)** (25331724) **7.00 Unwed Father (1997)** (95057) **8.30** El Week in Review (9279) **9.00 Broken Silence (1997)** (28085) **11.00 Rumble in the Bronx (1996)** (65892) **12.30am Random Encounter (1997)** (313729) **2.05 Tennessee Nights (1989)** (835293) **3.50 BAPS (1997)** (894632)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Code (1946) (4968960) **5.30** Hall of Fame: Kirk Douglas (3825095) **6.00 In Name Only (1939)** (1699989) **8.00 Flying Leathernecks (1951)** (1894434) **10.00 Gunfight at the OK Corral (1957)** (87035569) **12.05 I Walk the Line (1970)** (5550699) **1.45 The Sniper (1952)** (4635564) **3.20 The White Tower (1950)** (2863835)

TNT

9.00pm The Night of the Iguana (1964) (21035163) **11.15 Sweet Bird of Youth (1962)** (80048340) **1.30am Ringo and His Golden Pistol (1966)** (54307380) **3.00 The Night of the Iguana (1964)** (30882316) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Fastrax **11.30** Total Sport **12.00** Aerobics **12.30** Snooker **2.30** Fastrax **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Superbouts **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Unbelievable Sports **7.00** Pool League **8.00** Ringside **9.30** Unbelievable Sports **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Spanish Football **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** FA Cup Special **2.30** Spanish Football **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Golf Extra Special **11.30** Motor Racing **1.30pm** Golf Extra Special **3.00** Sports Unlimited **4.00** Premier Snooker League **6.00** Watersports World **7.00** Live FA Cup Football **10.00** Watersports World **11.00** Unbelievable Sports **11.30** Ringside **1.00am** World Pool League **2.00** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Boxing Superbouts **3.00** Motor Racing **5.00** Golf Extra Special **6.30** European Tour Golf Weekly **7.00** Live Golf **11.00** Second Innings **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Football: Eurogoals **9.00** Women's Alpine Skiing **9.30** Live Nordic Skiing **11.30** Tennis **12.00pm** Alpine Skiing **12.30** Nordic Skiing **1.30** Live Nordic Skiing **2.30** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **3.30** Live Tennis **4.30** Nordic Skiing **5.30** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **6.15** Start Your Engines **7.00** Live Tennis **8.30** Darts **9.30** Fitness **10.30** Nordic Skiing **11.45** Start Your Engines **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Men Behaving Badly **10.20** Men Behaving Badly **11.00** Only Fools and Horses **12.45am** The Bill **1.15** The Bill **1.45** Dangerfield **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Bowler **7.30** Doctor At Large **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Pig in the Middle **2.00** Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Sez Les **11.00** Men and Motors



Robin Williams and Matt Damon star in the Oscar-winning romantic drama *Good Will Hunting* (Sky Box Office 2)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Get Back **7.00** Boon **8.00** Men of the World **8.30** Superchefs **9.00** Head Over Heels **10.00** Soldier, Soldier **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Us and Them **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** FILM: Cinderella (1997) **8.30** Dinosaurs **9.00** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.45** Home Improvement **10.00** Mega Movie Magic **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** Fox Kids X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.50** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Arthur **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team **9.00** L.A.P.D **9.30** Cops **10.00** Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00** FILM: The Panic in Needle Park (1971) **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Erotic Series **2.05** The Late Lounge **2.35** Cops **3.05** FILM: Undefeatable (1993) **5.00** L.A.P.D **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbot and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Flash **9.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **10.00** FILM: The Running Man (1987) **12.00am** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00** FILM: Swamp Thing (1982) **2.45** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure Hour **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Diceman **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing **5.30** Real Gardens

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** Treasure Hunters **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Wild Dogs **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe **8.30** Creatures Fantastic **9.00** Chariots of the Gods: The Mysteries Continue **10.00** The Curse of Tutankhamen **11.00** Master Spies: The Deadly Game **12.00am** Dead Sea Scrolls: Unravelling the Mystery **1.00** Treasure Hunters **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Totally Australia **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** All-Bird TV **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Horse Tales **9.00** Going Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Scarlet Skies **7.30** Bali: Island of Artists **8.00** Man Eaters: The Siberian Tiger — Predator or Prey? **9.00** Ron Haviv: Freelance in a World of Risk **10.00** Silver Women **11.00** On the Edge: The Last Wild River Ride **12.00am** Extreme Earth: Flood!

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: The People's Resolution **5.00** Classic Cars: Volvo **6.00** Secret Mounds of Prehistoric America **7.00** Warhorse: The Iron Horse

CARLTON FOOD

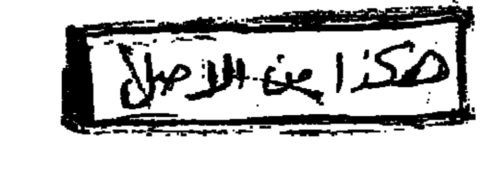
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Feasts of the World **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Scotland's Larder **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** From the Ground Up **2.00** Madhur's Indian Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Loyd's Louisiana **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Ro londa **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00** FILM: Buried Secrets (1996) **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith: Christian **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Sofia **11.00** Aashana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** FILM: Dian Day Saudey **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Gumrah **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baat Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Hawaein **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00am** News **12.30** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Ra ahat **2.00** FILM: Tamil Movie: Devati **4.30** Val No Vatessar





RACING 43

Favourite for 1,000 Guineas sustains fatal injury on gallops

SPORT

GOLF 46

World's finest gather in California for ultimate test of skill



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1999

Old guard comes under heavy fire

Baron seeks to drive RFU forward

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FRANCIS BARON, the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) chief executive for no more than five months, delivered a withering critique yesterday of the ills that have cost the RFU so much in financial and moral terms. "If this were a plc," Baron said, "heads would have rolled long ago."

It is Baron's brief to make the RFU the "financial powerhouse" of rugby in the British Isles within the next three years. To do so, he must drag it out of the morass of bureaucracy and debt that has accumulated over the past four years and restore the authority that once came naturally to the country that founded the game but whose popularity in world terms has never been lower.

He painted a bleak picture, when he joined last October, of demoralised staff embracing a "culture of resignation", of a lack of responsibility and accountability or of any formal business plans, of regular reports from the union's different areas within a governing body including 56 committees generating a "mountain of paperwork".

Although the union has budgeted for a £1.4 million loss in the present financial year, Baron estimates that it will be more like £2.3 million, given legal costs and the poor financial return from England's World Cup qualifying games at Huddersfield. Budge Rogers, the RFU junior vice-president who has produced a report on the future structure of the union, was equally sombre.

"I was appalled, returning to the game after a long time away, by what had gone on in the RFU Council," Rogers said. "Discussion of minutiae by over 50 people, not just at one meeting but at the next and the next." It is his task to convince a special meeting of the union on March 28 of the need to reduce the council members to around 43, to reduce the number of committees to three and to strengthen the existing constituent bodies.

When Rogers, as a player, sat on Sir George Mallaby's review of the RFU in 1972, the union's turnover was £130,000. Now it is more than £30 million and has the potential to be ten times that figure if Baron, who has already slashed staffing levels by nearly 20 per cent, can achieve his "lean and focused" management levels and offer the union's potential commercial partners a governing body "organised in a way they can understand and respect".

Not the least of the union's woes has been the increased amount of money paid to consultants and lawyers; over the past two years the RFU has lost £10.3 million yet increased staff by 59 per cent and, in the past financial year, legal fees doubled to £520,600. Since then, the union has been fined twice by the International Rugby Board (IRB), quite apart from the brief period when England were suspended from the Five Nations Championship.

"We want to restore good working relationships with the IRB and are considering the best way of achieving that," Baron said. He also hopes to sit down with his Five Nations colleagues to discuss the accord over the championship, after England's failure to acknowledge it swiftly enough caused the temporary rupture last month. It clearly remains an irritant to England that the contributions of France and, next season, Italy to commercial arrangements for the championship have yet to be defined.

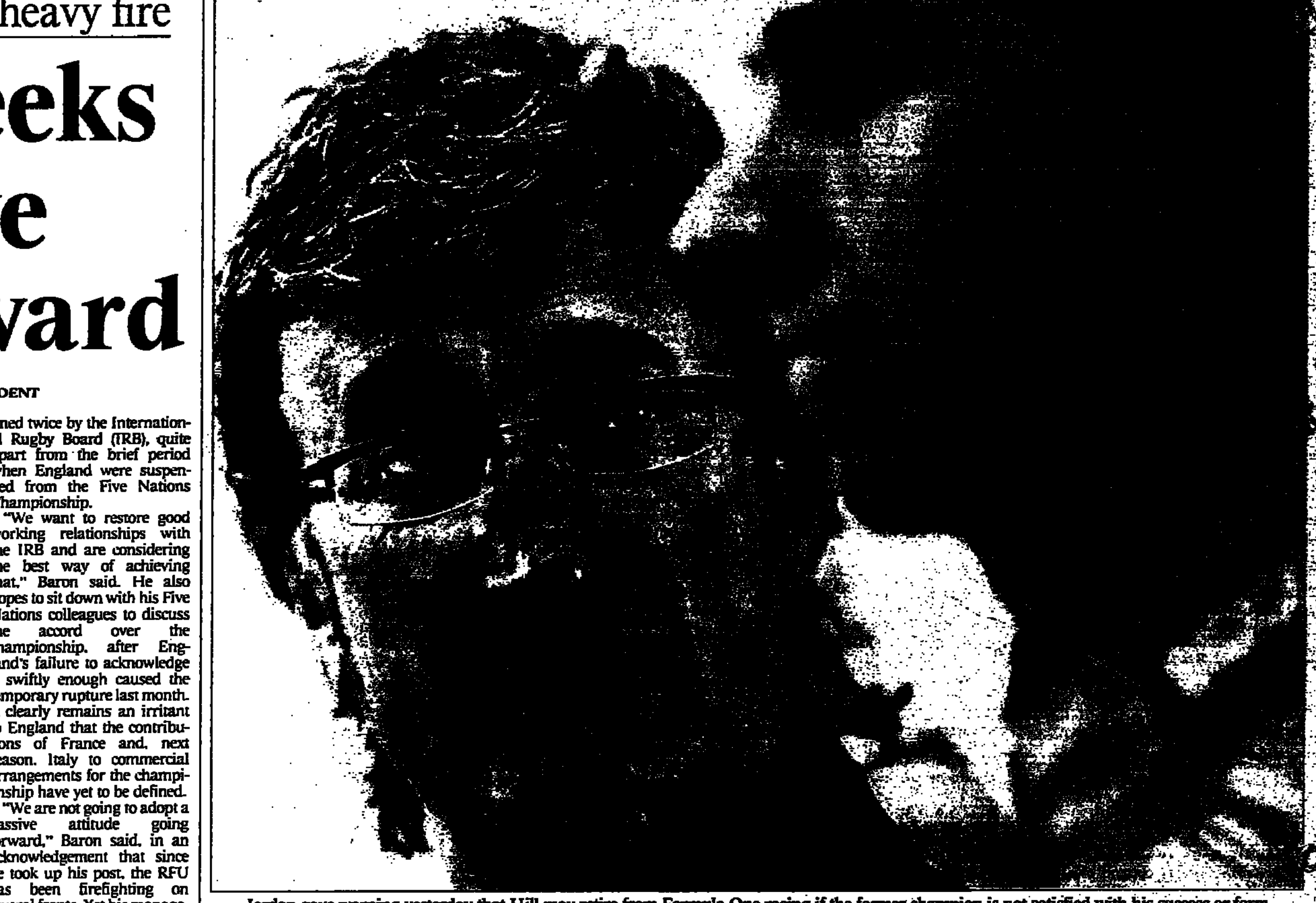
"We are not going to adopt a passive attitude going forward," Baron said, in an acknowledgement that since he took up his post, the RFU has been firefighting on several fronts. Yet his management board has yet to determine its stance on payment of IRB fines — administered over the complaint by English clubs to the European Commission and the Anglo-Welsh series — and must do so early next month when the appeal period will have ended.

"We are maintaining a dialogue with the IRB because we both want to find the right way forward," Baron said. An appeal would only add to the union's mounting legal costs, as would any further disputes with leading clubs in the event of, say, Bristol pushing through a wholesale merger with London Scottish or Cardiff buying into an Allied Dunbar Premiership club. Baron acknowledges the loopholes existing in rugby's regulations, which were framed for a less commercial — and litigious — era, but insists that new rules cannot be rushed through if they do not take account of national and European law.



Baron: bleak picture

Simon Barnes, page 45



Jordan gave warning yesterday that Hill may retire from Formula One racing if the former champion is not satisfied with his success or form

High hopes weigh heavily on Hill

Kevin Eason on how a disappointing year could signal the end of the road for the former world champion

DAMON Hill could walk away from Formula One if his season collapses in failure and without victories, according to the man who is paying him £5 million to drive this year.

Eddie Jordan yesterday weighed up the prospects of the 1996 world champion after last season when his fortunes veered from near disaster, and threats of retirement, to ecstasy with a maiden win for the Jordan team at the Belgian Grand Prix.

Far from a burden being lifted, Jordan, and Hill, now find that expectations have been raised and the team will be thought of as having failed if it cannot do better than last season when it showed spectacular improvement in performance. Hill goes into the first race on March 7 in Australia as the oldest driver in Formula One at the age of 38.

Nobody knows better than the Englishman that time is not on his side, though he remains insistent that a last championship is not yet beyond him. However, there is only a year left of Hill's contract with the team, and Jordan is realistic enough to understand that Hill will not be satisfied with a lukewarm season running in the midfield while the championship is contested by old adversaries, such as Michael Schumacher.

Jordan believes Hill would prefer to retire than face an extra season with little prospect of victory. Worse still, Hill faces the added pressure of knowing he has to outperform his new team-mate, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the man who replaced him at Williams, if he is to dispel any lingering doubts over his ability.

"If he does a good job for us, we will want him to stay," Jordan said. "If he doesn't do a good job, then I think he will not want to. He has a much stronger character than people think but if it is not going well and it all gets on top of him, he will decide to go."

Jordan and his team certainly do not want Hill to leave and Jordan believes the former champion is in the mood to improve on the success of last season. In spite of winning a championship and most of his races with Williams, Hill brought Jordan a maiden victory after the team's eight seasons of trying — a success that cements his place in the team's history.

"When he is sitting with his grandchildren on his lap, he will probably think back that probably the greatest win of his career was with Jordan," Jordan said. "Everybody expected Damon to win at Williams, but bringing Jordan, a middle of the pack team, to a one-two finish is a credit to him.

"We are getting good vibrations from Damon, and he says there is no comparison between the car he started with last season and the one he will take to Melbourne for the first race. He has worked hard with the team and he is happy with the changes we have made and the way we are looking at the season. I hope he will actually improve this year because we want to be one of the top three teams."

As Jordan spoke in his factory outside Silverstone, British American Racing (BAR) was on the track unveiling the compromise livery for its new cars. The team was ordered not to run its cars in two separate liveries with the colours of different cigarette brands belonging to owner, British American Tobacco.

The team's answer was to paint the cars in half one colour and half the other, a scheme BAR hopes will pacify sponsors, thought to be ploughing £350 million into the newest team on the grid. It will not be enough, though, to prevent the team appearing in front of the FIA, the sport's governing body, facing a disrepute charge for challenging the rules on car liveries.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1649

ACROSS
1 Killing the king (8)
7 A snap (5)
8 Future generations (9)
9 Droop (3)
10 Fight of honour (4)
11 Withdraw (heresy) (6)
13 London suburb; type of comedy (6)
14 A reflector (6)
17 Elaborately decorated (6)
18 Rough edge: West Country r sound (4)
20 Swindle: pain: college servant (3)
22 Government admin (street) (9)
23 Make straight (5)
24 Keep in mind (8)

DOWN
1 Swift (5)
2 Mrs —, wrote *Cranford* (7)
3 Head of kitchen (4)
4 (Spout) rubbish (6)
5 Littoral: freewheel (5)
6 Less smooth (7)
7 Egypt monument (7)
12 Mysterious (7)
13 Mournful; type of couplet (7)
15 Edible plant: crowd-scene word (7)
16 Dismantle (camp, set): pin-demolishing bowl (6)
17 Whence Masefield's quinquereme (5)
19 Governor (5)
21 Historian monk: sounds like *droplet* (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1648

ACROSS: 1 Hepworth 5 Hope 7 Recurrently 8 Span 9 Extant 10 Entomb 13 Hag 14 Derive 17 Oboist 18 Hire 19 Megalomania 20 Next 21 Kingship

DOWN: 1 Hogshead 2 Wren 3 Round the clock 4 Here we go again 5 Honest 6 Phlegm 7 Rafter 11 Olivia 12 Butter up 15 Effete 16 Intact 18 Hiss

Tottenham looking to extend cup sequence

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHEN George Graham is happy, he exudes a warm glow and a smile bordering on smugness. Graham, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, is smiling a lot at the moment and has every right to as he leads his side into their FA Cup fifth-round replay against Leeds United, his former club, at White Hart Lane tonight.

Since Graham left Elland Road in October, he has revitalised a team that was drifting nowhere under the apparently haphazard guidance of Christian Gross. Not so much in the FA Carling Premiership, in which a series of draws have restricted their progress, but in the knockout competitions, in which they have not lost in 11 matches this season.

Tottenham reached the final of the Worthington Cup last week when they defeated Wimbledon 1-0 at Selhurst Park. They will play Leicester City at Wembley on March 21 and victory this evening would ease them into the FA Cup quarter-finals and a tie away to Barnsley, from the Nationwide League first division.

Graham, as always, advises caution. "Let's not get carried away yet," he said yesterday. "We've come a long way in the past five months, probably farther than I expected and with more success than I expected, but let's not get greedy. Getting to Wembley is a bonus.

"There are still a lot of things to be done, a lot of things to achieve, and time is the only answer when you're building something. The players have been fantastic. They've had a really hard programme and their mental attitude has been good. But I still need a bigger and more talented squad."

Tottenham have played 13 league and cup matches since Christmas, none of which they have lost. Leeds have been on the go, too, playing only one game fewer over the same period, and have held up remarkably well considering the number of injuries that David O'Leary, the manager, has had to contend with. O'Leary's younger players have filled the gaps admirably and will have learnt much from their experiences.

Lucas Radebe, the Leeds central defender, embarks on an exhausting schedule of three games in six days this evening. South Africa have given him permission to play at White Hart Lane but he must leave after the game and fly to Johannesburg, where he will play against Gabon in the African Nations' Cup on Saturday.

He returns to England over the weekend in time for Leeds's game against Leicester City on Monday. "I'm hoping to get some rest along the way so I'll be OK for the matches," he said.

"It's part of my life, you have to get on with it. After it's over, I hope I'll look back on it and be proud of what I've done."

LINKS

WEBSITES: www.spurs.co.uk www.lufc.co.uk

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 2, 7pm

United deny making offer for Rivaldo

MANCHESTER UNITED yesterday denied that they had made an offer for Rivaldo, the Barcelona forward, even though the player claimed that he had rejected advances from the club.

United were reported to have launched an £18 million bid for the Brazil international. However, a United spokesman said: "There is no truth in this — it is nonsense."

Josep Maria Minguella, Rivaldo's agent, provided details of the supposed offer, which would mean United having to pay up to £66 million to release Rivaldo from his contract at Barcelona.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, is an admirer of Rivaldo, but there would appear to be little point in trying to prise him away from the Nou Camp now, for Rivaldo would be ineligible for the European Cup.

Liverpool moved swiftly yesterday to end speculation suggesting that Michael Owen had reached an agreement with Lazio that, if he decided to leave Anfield, the Rome club would have the option of first talks. "Michael has assured us that he has not made any agreement with any club to talk to them now or in the future," Ian Cotton, a Liverpool spokesman said.

Ronaldo struggles, page 44
Rovers dig deep, page 44



Alan Lee takes up the reins

ALAN LEE, above, is to become the racing correspondent of The Times. Lee, 44, has been the paper's cricket correspondent since 1988, when he succeeded John Woodcock, and takes up the reins of his new post for one of the highlights of the racing calendar, the Cheltenham Festival, next month.

Lee, who has been shortlisted for sports reporter of the year in the British Press Awards, has a longstanding interest and involvement in racing. He is the author of several books on racing, including the acclaimed biography of Fred Winter, Lambourn, Village of Racing, Jump Jockeys and other works with Peter Scudamore and Pat Eddery.